



# eSimone

CONNECTING TO  
THE "FEMINIST" IN YOU...

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## WELCOME BACK!

As Events Coordinator and Information Officer at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, I have the privilege of closely following the numerous academic, political and cultural activities stemming from the very dynamic SdBI community. To help students, staff, professors and friends keep up with the SdBI news, I am pleased to introduce the third volume of eSimone. In addition to reflecting on past events and announcing important upcoming ones, this newsletter also

provides a space to highlight student, faculty and community achievements, as well as academic opportunities of all kinds. eSimone offers an informative portrait of the SdBI, while giving well deserved visibility to the great work being done at the Institute and within our affiliated communities.

- Michelle Lacombe  
Events Coordinator & Info Officer

## A New Look for the SdBI 4th Floor

As many of you have noticed, the reading room has been closed this semester. We have been making some much needed changes to our collection and our space. Our collection is being digitized, which means that users will be able to search our collection online instead of having to physically come to the 4th floor to peruse the books. Our new reading room has been named Simone's Library. We have also re-organized the front room and renamed it Simone's Research Corner, a space that will be completely devoted to work space for students and Research Associates. To this end, four computers have been installed.

We hope that these changes make it easier for the SdBI community to access our collection and use the space. As always, the documentalist will be available for questions and to lend books.

We thank you for your patience and hope to see you at our grand opening in January!

- Laura Copeland  
SdBI Documentalist

Simone's Library and Research  
Corner is housed on the 4th  
floor of the SdBI (2170 Bishop)  
in MU-401.

# NEWS

## Introducing the SdBI 2011-2012 Postdoctoral Fellows

### Dr. Fiona Moola



2011-2012 Postdoctoral Fellow  
Dr. Fiona Moola

Dr. Fiona Moola is a graduate of the Graduate Department of Exercise Sciences at the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children. As a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Fiona will continue her research in paediatrics by studying the psychological and social implications of living with cystic fibrosis and congenital heart disease, as well as methods to devise appropriate and inclusive adapted physical activity programs for these children and youth. Fiona will continue to research the health and physical activity experiences of women living with anorexia nervosa, and the positive role that physical activity may play in enabling recovery. Fiona will collaborate with Dr. Geneviève Rail in the CIHR funded “Weight of words” Study, which seeks to investigate how diverse health professionals understand and construct the current “obesity epidemic” and contribute toward the dissemination of obesity-related knowledge. Fiona will also contribute toward novel studies with Dr. Rail which unravel and explore the complex gender politics and dynamics in recent Canadian HPV vaccine initiatives, and the experiences of cancer care for queer, lesbian, and bisexual patients. Fiona is very excited to join the Institute as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

### Dr. Isabelle Perreault

Isabelle Perreault earned her doctorate in history at the University of Ottawa in 2009. Her areas of specialization are psychiatric institutionalization and deinstitutionalization policies; the history of management of behaviours deemed to arise from social, mental, and sexual deviance in French Canada during the twentieth century; and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. During her stay at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Dr. Perreault will be working on a research entitled “Scientia Sexualis in Quebec from 1920 to 2000” (SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship 2011–2013). Her Supervisor will be Dr. Viviane Namaste and her postdoctoral project will focus on the scientific discourses and practices related to sexuality in Quebec between 1920 and 2000. The project seeks to understand the epistemological foundations of sexology in Quebec, an academic discipline the object of which is to study human sexuality. The project is part of her ongoing research on the history of knowledge on sexuality in French-Catholic Quebec between 1920 and 1960. The results, published in the form of a book, will allow (1) to understand the epistemological foundations that allowed for the emergence and establishment of a science of sex and gender in Quebec; and (2) to see how this science and its experts have positioned themselves since the secularization of society and the implementation of this specialized academic field. The study will examine the paths of professors/researchers and the evolution of teaching and research in sexology under consideration of the knowledge production on sexual health, along with their discourses and practices. A scientific paper on this project was presented last August at the conference “We Demand” in Vancouver, and a first chapter of the book will be published soon (VLB Editions, November 2011).



2011-2012 Postdoctoral Fellow  
Dr. Isabelle Perreault

## PASC Offers Tools for Critical Reflection on International Solidarity Practices

The Project for Accompaniment and Solidarity with Colombia (PASC) is a collective based in Canada that was formed following the large mobilizations against the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Since 2003, PASC has been facilitating international accompaniments for Columbian communities and organizations, spreading information on Columbian social movements, and confronting Canadian interests in the social and armed conflict in Colombia. For PASC, international accompaniment is a method of transferring the privileges of being Canadian to movements and communities in resistance.

Inspired by the obstacles encountered during the organization of an accompaniment project in Columbia and by the research spearheaded by Dr. Gada Mahrouse, the PASC, in collaboration with the SdBI and Concordia University, is now offering free reflexive sessions and workshops to social actors engaged in international solidarity initiatives.

Offered between May 2011 and April 2012, the content of the workshops has been elaborated by and for individuals engaged in international solidarity projects: students, interns and permanent staff of organizations for international cooperation, activists, trade unions, community organizations and women's centers with an international facet. This initiative aims to address concepts of "privilege" and, more precisely, the power dynamics inherent in solidarity work between the North and the South. The guided reflexive process takes a look at the history of international solidarity to gain a better understanding of contemporary initiatives, as well as the legacy inherited from preceding ones. The workshops intend to generate a dialogue between the conception of international solidarity maintained by activists from the North and the ideals and values defended by movements fighting for the decolonisation of North/South relations.

All workshops are free and are available in multiple forms to respond to specific needs and availabilities. PASC will travel throughout Québec according to invitations.

For more information or to book a workshop, contact:  
[events.coordinator.sdbi@gmail.com](mailto:events.coordinator.sdbi@gmail.com)

## spotlight



Tano enjoys some fresh leaves and the protective warmth of a donated blanket

In October, SdBI program secretary Belinda Bowes went to Kenya to visit The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Located in the Nairobi National Park, the Trust is best known for its orphaned elephant and rhino fostering initiatives. Before leaving for Africa to spend some time with the small pachyderms, Belinda collected sunscreen, blankets and soccer balls. Thanks to the generous donations from the SdBI and Concordia communities, she left for Africa with a suitcase full of supplies to donate to the Trust.

Having seen the impact of the donations first-hand during her visit, Belinda would like to express her gratitude to those who contributed small gifts for the baby elephants.

Hurray for a touching, memorable and muddy experience!

# NEWS

## Congratulations!



### SAWCC: 30 Years of Success and Struggle

At the beginning of the month of November, the South Asian Women's Community Centre (SAWCC) hosted its 30th anniversary conference titled *Migrant Feminisms in the New Millenium*. That same weekend, a group of women from SAWCC attended the Occupy Montreal protest, where they offered a great message of solidarity. The SdBI would like to congratulate SAWCC for 30 years of diligent work, success and struggle in fighting all forms of violence against women in the South Asian community in Montreal. Keep up the good work; you are a respected friend and ally!

### 2011-2012 Dean's List

The SdBI would like to congratulate the following students for being placed on the Dean's list for their outstanding performance.

Gabrielle Bouchard  
Sofia Guerrieri  
Natasha Ketter-Price  
Pamela Lamb  
Kinneret Sheetreet  
Sungjin Lee  
Elodie Bruton-Cyr  
Alexzandra Kekesi  
Klara Longfellow-Richards  
Henna Tuohimaa  
Sydney Neuman



SAWCC members, including SdBI part-time faculty Dr. Dolores Chew, at Occupy Montreal

### SdBI Students Protest Proposed Tuition Hikes

The SdBI would like to express its solidarity with SdBI students who braved the weather Thursday, November 10th to join an estimated 200,000 fellow students in Montreal's streets to protest the government of Premier Jean Charest's proposed increases to tuition fees.

### Grants

Congratulations to Dr. Gada Mahrouse, a full-time faculty member at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Dr. Mahrouse was the recipient of a funding award for \$48,172 from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du loisir et du Sport for her project, *Au delà de l'humanitaire: La solidarité internationale des mouvements sociaux du Québec*. We commend you for your dedicated work and successes!

# PAST EVENTS

## Lillian Robinson Scholars Kick Off Another Year of Feminist Cafés



2011-2012 Lillian Robinson Scholar  
Dr. Manal Hamzeh

This year's Feminist Café series began in October with presentations by Dr. Manal Hamzeh and Dr. Heather Sykes, two of this year's selected Lillian Robinson Scholars (LRS). The Feminist Cafés offered the ideal context for both scholars to share their expertise and research experiences with our community, as well as expand their personal and professional networks.

Dr. Manal Hamzeh opened the series with a presentation during which she articulated her exploration of a gendering discourse, the *hijab* discourse, and the ways in which it is negotiated by girls who self-identify as *muslim*. Dr. Hamzeh weaved personal stories and perspectives as both an *arabyyah-muslimah* and a researcher into the content of her presentation. The result was an intimate exploration of powerful issues, which will be expanded upon in her forthcoming book, *Pedagogies of deVeiling*.

The following week, Dr. Heather Sykes presented her examination of connections between physical activity, student embodiment and three forms of discrimination

in physical education—homophobia, transphobia and fat phobia. Her presentation offered new and inspiring proposals for potential curriculum reform, inclusive teaching methodologies and expansive politics of the body for future physical education professionals.

As in the past, lunchtime research presentations included a small reception that provided attendees with healthy and delicious snacks, as well as the valuable opportunity to discuss with our visiting scholars in a more informal manner. With subject matter as rich and pertinent as that explored within the Feminist Café series, it is common that the discussions carry on beyond the frame of the presentations.

Not surprisingly, both events attracted a room full of students, faculty and community members, as well as Lillian Robinson's nephew, Dr. Greg Robinson (Département d'histoire, UQAM). The success of our recent Feminist Cafés attests to the wide interest in another year of dynamic and engaging presentations by remarkable feminist scholars, activists and writers.



2011-2012 Lillian Robinson Scholar  
Dr. Heather Sykes with Dr. Greg Robinson

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Feminist Café posters get a fresh look for the 2011-2012 academic season. Be on the lookout!

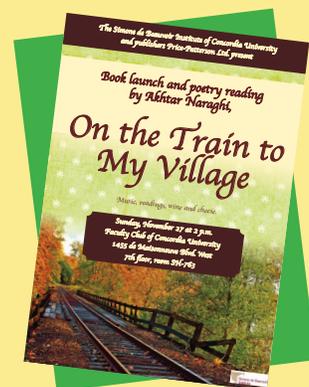
## SdBI Research Associates Share their Work

This year, the SdBI Research Associates continue to host a series of Sessions during which they share their current research interest with each other and the extended community. Keep your eyes peeled for these monthly meetings as these informal presentations offer a unique opportunity to encounter a rich diversity of feminist thought and research occurring around the Institute. Students are particularly encouraged to attend as the intergenerational knowledge sharing these initiatives provide is unparalleled.

## Trigger Squad Extends PSA Support to the SdBI

The Centre for Gender Advocacy offers confidential support services through its volunteer Peer Support and Advocacy (PSA) program, which operates on principles of empowerment, harm reduction and self-determination. The program is staffed by volunteers who have undergone training so they can be there to actively listen and help find relevant resources for individuals seeking support. This program has recently been extended to include Trigger Squad, an off-site team of volunteers who are now available to offer PSA services during on-campus events. The SdBI recognizes the importance of this initiative and looks forward to seeing it in action at some of our future events!

## Recent Success!



Book launch and poetry reading by Akhtar Niragi  
Sunday, November 27th

## 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](mailto:events.coordinator.sdbi@gmail.com)

## Up Next...

- Wednesday February 4th  
Informed Opinions Panel
- Thursday January 26th  
HIV/AIDS Lecture Series:  
Doris Peltier
- March 5-6th  
Gender, Health and Creative  
Arts Therapies Conference