



## Principal's Welcome

It is with great joy that I welcome our new and returning students to the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Our 2016-2017 academic year began with the frightening news that Prof. Homa Hoodfar was still incarcerated in Iran after her arrest on June 6, 2016. Over the course of the summer I heard from many in our community wanting to know how to help; like so many other feminists around the world, they leapt to sign petitions, attend rallies, and inform others about the unjustness of Prof. Hoodfar's situation. I am especially thankful to Julia Dyck who started her first week as the SdBI's Communications and Events Coordinator by helping us to organize a well-attended press conference. Both she and Gen Rail, who undertook numerous media interviews in French over the course of the summer and into the fall, played a key role on the Concordia Homa Hoodfar Working Group that was established in September. With the news of Prof. Hoodfar's release and return to Montreal on September 26th, we can all rest a little easier knowing that a fellow feminist academic's plight received the global attention it deserved – and, best of all, the liberation we all sought for her.

There is much good news to share here at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute. The demand for our Women's Studies courses has grown significantly over the last few years: in fact, enrollment in our undergraduate women's studies major is up 89% over the past four years alone. In response we are looking to hire new full-time faculty and, if all goes well, move to a larger and more accessible space within the next couple of years. We have also added the Sexuality Studies minor to our programming this fall, and have received funding from the Faculty of Arts and Science to launch a new "Critical Feminist Action in Research" (C-FAR) project. The C-FAR Project is a community building, research and training initiative emerging from an intersectional feminist framework anchored in anti-racist, anti-oppressive and non-binary approaches to equity, inclusion and representation on campus and across communities. If you are interested in participating please email: [cfar@concordia.ca](mailto:cfar@concordia.ca)

If you are a new (or returning) student, please check out your elected representatives on the Women's Studies Student's Association (WSSA). This dynamic group of students have been very active in participating in the life of the SdBI, including at the Institute retreat in the spring, on the Department Appraisal Committee Review (an exercise undertaken every seven years), and by representing us at Pride Community Day and on the Pride Walk in August. They have planned a number of exciting upcoming events, including a homecoming celebration to be held in Mile End on the evening of October 21st.

Finally, we hope to see many of you at the upcoming events the SdBI is organizing and/or sponsoring, including the imminent arrival of our two Lillian B. Robinson Visiting Scholars: Dr. Tanisha Ramachandran (fall semester) and Dr. Sharon Batt (winter semester).

I wish you all a very productive, happy, and healthy semester.

-Dr. Kimberly Manning

## WELCOME HOME HOMA HOODFAR

Professor Homa Hoodfar has been released from prison and is back in Montreal. Professor Hoodfar's family and friends are grateful to everyone who has supported her over the last few months, especially the Canadian government, its allies, civil society, and the academic community for their tireless efforts.

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute was involved in mobilizing the student and academic community in calling for the release of our friend and colleague, who was imprisoned for over 100 days in Iran's notorious Evin prison on charges including "dabbling in feminism".



Photo: Ryan Remiorz/Canadian Press

**Mair Verthuy, our first Principal**, is still working hard, although not always academically... In the past year, she has published a translation into French of an English Canadian novel she had enjoyed in the original language. The author of the original is Claudia Morrison, who taught social studies and women's studies at John Abbott Cégep; the title in English is *From the Foot of the Mountain*. The French version, translated by Mair, is entitled *Nombreux Sont les Chemins*.

Mair is also working on the follow-up to her first mystery novel, *Last Step*, which she published under one of her birth names, Gwyneth Williams, so that should be coming out this winter.

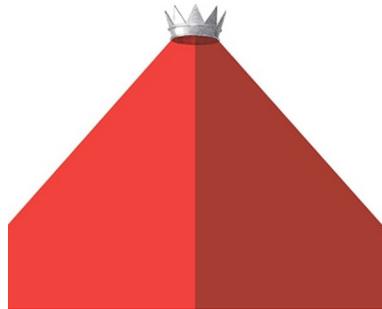
A documentary film was made about her work with and on women writers, including those who are immigrants. *Autour de Mair*. The Director is Hejer Charf, a Canadian-Tunisian, who has already won several prizes for her work. The production company is called Nadja Productions and her partner there is Nadine Ltaif, a well-known Canadian-Lebanese poet. The film has been shown in Montreal on several occasions, in Florence last winter, in Algiers this last Spring, was also shown in Paris for approximately a month at the famous cinema d'art et d'essai, St André des Arts. A national conference on féminine and féminist literature will be taking place shortly in France, and the conference will close on this film.

Earlier this year, Mair was invited to Algiers by our Canadian Ambassador to Algeria, the Honorable Isabelle Roy. She was to speak about her own work and also discuss the importance of the work of Assia Djebar, a famous writer and film-maker who died last year. She was an old and good friend of Mair. She was also the first Muslim woman to become a member of the Académie française. Unfortunately, Mair was unable to attend this event because of her health problems, but the event did in any case take place. Wassyla Tamzali, another old friend, represented Mair. Interviews with Mair were published in two Algerian newspapers, in El Watan in particular.

On June 16, Mair was the guest of honour at an event to honour the memory of Assia Djebar, an event organized by Uneq, Racines et Confluences, SN Production et Mémoire d'encrier, which took place at the Maison des Écrivains.e.s. Two other speakers were also invited : Mona Latif-Ghattas and a young Inuit woman who spoke very movingly about their specific writing problems. To emphasize the importance of Assia, the public included the Algerian Ambassador who came from Ottawa, the Algerian Consul in Montreal and his collègue. The organizers chose this date because it commemorated Assia's official entry into the Académie française and thus recognized her achievements.

## Dr. Gada Mahrouse Wins Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes (WGSRF) 2015/2016 Outstanding Scholarship Prize

Gada Mahrouse  
**CONFLICTED COMMITMENTS**  
Race, Privilege, and Power  
in Transnational Solidarity Activism



Gada Mahrouse . *Conflicted Commitments: Race, Privilege, and Power in Transnational Solidarity Activism*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014.

## RA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Dr. Karin Doerr** was invited to a one-day conference entitled *Exploring Genocide & Justice* at Carlton University, Ottawa, 23 June 2016. As one of the guest speakers, she opened the event with her presentation "*The Holocaust and German Identity Then and Now.*"

**Research Associate, Dr. Karin Doerr & Dr. Sima Aprahamian are organizing a panel for Congress 2017, May 27 – June 2 Ryerson, Toronto, ON .**

Session Abstract: Genocide and Mass Deaths: Intimate Expressions of Loss as Modes of Universal Grief

In the face of continued global violence, many contemporary groups find their own a focus on grief and injustice. As they do so, they are looking for models of recounting and commemorating. Responses to and research of the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust provide them with models of recounting and commemorating. Nevertheless, in the name of historical continuation and transmitting of the early genocides and other mass deaths of the past, we need to keep them in our consciousness lest the historical knowledge falls into oblivion.

Since the scholarship of these earlier catastrophes is vast and multifaceted, it might be useful to take a more personalized approach. This is to say, instead of focusing on the immensity of the evil deeds and the resulting suffering of the large number of victimized, we bring the calamities closer. The attention will be on the human level, perhaps only on one person, the agony of loss and survival. The proposed session calls for papers that specifically examine personal and intimate expressions of such grief in the context of genocide and mass deaths from a feminist and socialist perspective.

# PAST EVENTS

## Feminist Caucus Potluck

Concordia Women's/Feminist Caucus Potluck, was held September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. In the tradition of the Women's Caucus of the past years, guests gathered to meet and reconnect with friends and co-workers from across the university. This year, there was also opportunity to plan action, events, and activities.



## Feminist Pedagogy Workshop: ‘Power, Discomfort and Learning: Can (or Should) the Feminist Classroom Serve as a Prefigurative Space?’

Geneviève Pagé, Professor in the Department of Political Science at UQAM and member of RÉQEF, Réseau québécois en études féministes, spoke about the Chantier pédagogique that she is coordinating and hosted interactive session with on the subject of ‘Power, Discomfort and Learning: Can (or Should) the Feminist Classroom Serve as a Prefigurative Space?’. This event was attended by 25 feminist academics from each of Montreal’s Gender Studies departments.

## Zine Making Workshop



Nina Maness, the Simone’s Library Intern, organized a zine-making workshop in March of 2016. Facilitated by artist Clara Bee Lavery, participants learned about zines and made their own.

# PAST EVENTS

## SdBI at Pride, August 2016



## Ginger Garden



On September 1, 2016, Asian Canadian Wiki, in collaboration with The Simone de Beauvoir Institute presented Ginger Garden. Ginger Garden is an intimate public potluck gathering to eat, drink, meet and discuss around informal presentations of arts, education, and community-based projects in an open space conducive to sharing and exchanging information and ideas. Ten presenters who identify themselves as Asian / mixed-race presented their most recent work. The event includes open time for public announcements, spontaneous presenters, and discussion. Ginger Garden facilitates serendipitous discoveries and cross-disciplinary connections that may capture the power of creativity and the imagination. Presentations are video documented with permission and posted to the Asian Canadian Wiki Ginger Garden page: [http://www.asiancanadianwiki.org/w/Ginger\\_Garden](http://www.asiancanadianwiki.org/w/Ginger_Garden)

# Lillian Robinson Scholars

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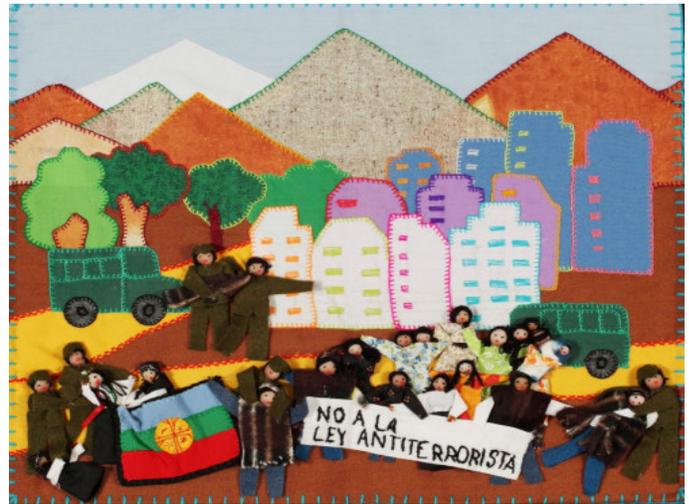
## Dr. Sarah Kindon

### *Untangling Hybrid Tapestries: Tracing the Effects of Arpilleras with Chilean Migrants and Former Refugees in Wellington, New Zealand*

In March, 2016, Lillian Robinson Scholar, Dr. Sara Kindon, hosted a public talk about her research on arpilleras.

First made in 1970s Chile by female relatives of victims of the Pinochet dictatorship, arpilleras are hand-sewn tapestries made from scraps. Since then, arpilleras have been produced in different parts of the world as a means of speaking out visually while in search for justice. In September 2013, twenty arpilleras from Pinochet's era were exhibited in Wellington New Zealand for the first time as part of the Third International Visual Methods Conference.

This seminar presented some insights from a feminist research project that traced the effects of this event on some Chilean migrant and refugee women living in Wellington. It explored how their engagements were embodied through performance, and how they were



affected by visiting and being with the arpilleras on display. The arrival of these well-travelled older arpilleras on Wellington's soil was catalytic for these women. It provoked a multi-sensory engagement that was simultaneously personal and collective, retrospective and contemporary, about somewhere else but also connected to New Zealand. The exhibited arpilleras therefore became actors in the womens' reworking of their subjectivities and spatial relationships. This research points to the important role that artifacts and artistic practice can play in processes of subject formation and improved settlement outcomes for migrant and refugee women.



## Dr. Rebecca Godderis

### *Using Feminist Expertise to Address Sexual Violence on Campus*

Simone de Beauvoir Institute Lillian Robinson Scholar, Dr. Rebecca Godderis, joined us from Wilfrid Laurier University in February 2016 to share her research. Based on knowledge produced through collective activism and community-directed research, her talk explored the tensions and points of connection between feminist expertise about sexual violence and its application inside of post-secondary institutions. In addition to outlining key challenges encountered in this work, Dr. Godderis discussed innovative solutions that are currently being piloted at Laurier that connect the university with feminist organizations in the broader community.

# C-FAR Critical Feminist Activism in Research

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The C-FAR (Critical Feminist Activism in Research) project with the Simone de Beauvoir Institute is a community-building initiative emerging from an intersectional feminist framework anchored in anti-racist and anti-oppressive approaches to equity, inclusion and representation on campus and across communities. C-FAR is a project that welcomes everyone while appreciating that the issues that we face, the concerns and values that we have, and our visions for our many futures, are particular, varied and oftentimes untranslatable. C-FAR does not strive for a united transformation of Concordia into one singular feminist collective or community, we rather hope to foster various networks of support and resources to promote a multi-directional series of intersectional feminist projects of different scale, with different goals, each addressing its own particular needs with its own potential for transformative power at an institutional and systemic level. In speaking and working with each other across our difference, we hope to begin a reimagining of how our university works and who it works for in order to foster a non-binary learning space that is intentionally inclusive and accessible, anti-racist and anti-colonial, one that is getting closer to that better-world we are thinking about, working towards and hoping for.

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## FUTURE EVENTS

### **WSSA Homecoming Party**

Friday October 21, 2016  
Temps Libre, 5605 avenue de Gaspé #106  
7pm-midnight  
Free food & drinks + DJ!  
Students, faculty, and alumni welcome

### **SdBI Co-Sponsored Event: Dr. Kim TallBear**

Friday October 14, 2016, 6:30 pm EV 1.605  
part of the Future Imaginary  
Lecture Series hosted by The Initiative For  
Indigenous Futures

### **Research Associates' Seminar Series**

Wednesday, 12 October 2016, 4:00 pm  
MU 101 SdBI 2170 Bishop  
Finno-Ugric Guardian Spirits and Animal Mothers—Pohjola Mythology  
and Ecological Knowledge  
DVD Short Documentary, 35 min. Filming & Editing, Kirre Koivunen,  
Director Kirre Koivunen & Kaarina Kailo,  
Production Myyttikehrä & Valokuvalabo, 2014

### **Lillian Robinson**

### **Visiting Scholar Tanisha**

### **Ramachandran**

Presentation

Tuesday November 1st,  
11:30am  
MU 101 SdBI 2170 Bishop

### **SdBI Co-Sponsored Event:**

### **Forgotten Stories**

Early AIDS activism in Montreal  
Gary Kinsman and Alexis Shotwell  
Thursday October 27 2016, 7:00pm  
De Seve Cinema  
Concordia University SGW Campus

### **SdBI Co-Sponsored Event:**

### **Montreal Feminist Media Showcase at The National Women's Studies Association**

**Annual Conference**  
Friday, November 11, 2016  
9:00pm  
Monument-National  
1182, Boulevard St-Laurent

## New Staff at the SdBI



**Meghan Gagliardi (C-FAR Research Coordinator)**

Meghan Gagliardi is a feminist geographer whose research interests include volunteer tourism in Latin America, anti-racist alliances and entanglements across difference and distance. She is just beginning her MSc. in the department of Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies at Concordia where she will be working with transnational feminist movements. As a staff writer for the literary blog *Le Shindig* and in her own creative work, Meghan uses poetry as a medium through which to explore trauma, memory, embodiment, pleasure and love.



**Julia Dyck (SdBI Communications and Events Coordinator)**

Julia Dyck is a recent graduate of Concordia's Graduate Diploma in Communication Studies. She has a background in business, gender studies, performance, and feminist arts organizing and has recently worked with the *Edgy Women Festival* and *Art + Feminism*. She is also a musician, sound artist, and the co-producer/host of the *xxfiles* radio show, a weekly investigation into art, feminisms, and technology on CKUT 90.3FM.



**Annick MF (C-FAR Outreach Coordinator)**

Annick MF is a second year student in the Masters in Communications at Concordia University. Annick's research is centered on Black identity in Montreal, exploring its iterations, eras of thought, and intersectionality. Her work is invested at looking at this work from the Montreal perspective because she is a Black woman born and raised in Montreal but also because Montreal is very unique place in terms of competing identities, where language as well as race, gender and class has created strong divisions within its population. Outside of her masters. Annick is a radio host, filmmaker and multimedia artist. Some of the topics that are in her focus at the moment are Reproductive Rights, Family Diversity, Intersectional Feminism, and Anti-Colonial Community Structures.



**Finn Purcell (SdB Summer Institute Research Coordinator)**

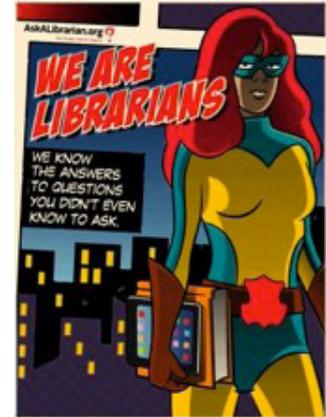
Finn Purcell is working towards an MA in English at Concordia. Their main research looks at the articulation of multiply-marginalized identities through contemporary poetry, with a particular focus on the way in-betweens and encounters are crafted into spaces of possibility and being. They have worked extensively with a variety of queer and trans activist groups on campus, most notably as the administrative coordinator for *Queer Concordia* from 2012 - 2014, as well as founding *Spectra Journal* in 2013. Additionally, they are a current member of the SAGE Subcommittee on Representation and Visibility in the Academy, working towards equitable hiring and teaching practices (with particular regard to issues of race, gender, and sexuality) within the English Department.

# Simone's Library: Feminist Library and Learning Centre

Our Feminist Library and Learning Centre, Simone's Library, is open. We offer a multitude of services geared toward students' university success. We have a dedicated librarian available at the library Monday to Thursday (with or without appointments). She will help students any way she can by teaching how to locate documents online; easily and rapidly access and assess those documents; she will proof-read drafts of research paper and help with writing, academic structure, references, bibliography, etc.

**Come by for a nice cup of tea (free) and a quiet place to eat and study on the 4th floor of the Institute, MU-401**

SCHEDULE Fall 2016	ADDRESS	CONTACT
Monday to Thursday 11am to 6pm	4 <sup>th</sup> floor MU-401  Simone de Beauvoir Institute  2170 Bishop Street	514.848.2424 #2377  sdbi.readingroom@gmail.com  Isabelle.lamoureux@concordia.ca



## The New Feminist Caucus List-Serve

The Concordia Feminist Caucus is our new list-serve representing an informal group of feminists at Concordia comprised largely of faculty, staff, and administrators who are interested in promoting inclusion, representation and equity at Concordia. Years ago, when the Status of Women's Office was closed, the Women's Caucus was developed as an informal way of sharing news, connecting with each other, and promoting events. And today, the Caucus has continued its annual pot-luck brunch and this new list-serve has been created to provide a way to reconnect with feminist members of our community.

If you would like to join, send an email to: [majordomo@lists.concordia.ca](mailto:majordomo@lists.concordia.ca) with the message "subscribe feminist-caucus"

Aside from the annual brunch, anyone can send messages to discuss or promote intersectional feminist events that focus on feminist issues. Our list-serve is not one which demands you read through multiple emails, people receive about five or six emails per year. Join us!

## Submit to 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 Communication and Events Coordinator at:

[sdbi.eventscordinator@concordia.ca](mailto:sdbi.eventscordinator@concordia.ca)



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCE

Simone de Beauvoir  
Institute