In Canada’s constantly shifting multicultural context, public commemoration sometimes becomes a source of conflict, disharmony, or dissension.

Traditionally controlled by Anglophone and Francophone elites, commemorative public art in Canada is increasingly sparking debates in different cultural communities, including citizens with immigrant backgrounds. Recent case studies demonstrate how and why Canada’s growing and rapidly diversifying immigrant population is affecting commemorative public art management and policies. The current situation invites us to reflect on ways of better remembering together in democratic, multicultural, and diasporic societies.

Dr. Analays Alvarez is a postdoctoral fellow in the History of Art department of the University of Toronto. She received her doctorate from the Université du Québec à Montréal in 2015. Cross-cultural and multilingual education and professional experience have contributed to Dr. Alvarez’s expertise in commemorative public art, immigrant heritages, and digital curating.

The Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art presents a series of conversations entitled Afternoons at the Institute, now in its fourth season.

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Bringing established and emerging scholars together, the series focuses on pressing questions and current issues in the research and writing of art histories. The series has been made possible by a generous donation from the Jarislowsky Foundation.