

CENTRE FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH 2011-2012 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



2011/12 was an extremely exciting and productive year at CFR. The many research projects, lectures, research seminars, workshops and symposia that took place at the Centre highlighted the vibrancy of feminist scholarship at York and the importance of the Centre in this scholarship. Indeed the Centre's research activities expanded on the excellent quality and innovativeness of feminist research at York University.

During the past year, CFR continued to work with a number of our Associates to develop research grants. Our Associates continue to be successful in receiving research grants. Congratulations to Amanda Glasbeek, Emily van der Meulen, Cynthia Wright and their team for receiving a SSHRC Workshop and Conference grant for their project "Critical Perspectives on Canadian Anti-Trafficking Policy." Congratulations to Sheila Cavanagh on receiving a SSHRC Public Dissemination Grant for her project "Queer Bathroom Monologues." Prof. Cavanagh joins a number of other Associates in administering grants through CFR. The projects administrated by CFR encompassed a wide array of critical feminist debates, such as sexuality studies, Indigenous-African relations, transnational migration trajectories of professional immigrant women, and the impact of laws that criminalize sexual orientation in the global south. These projects also include critical public policy issues such as gendering federal macroeconomic policies, racism in the University, and the racialized and gendered dimensions of economic security of later life Canadians.

Reflecting the vibrancy and excellence of feminist scholarship at York University, CFR Associates have had a number of other notable achievements in the past year. We are delighted to have expanded our newsletter to include some of those achievements. If you would like to share your awards, publications and achievements with CFR in next year's newsletter or on our website, please email cfr@yorku.ca. Particularly rewarding in the past year was our work with CFR Associates to organize launches for their newly published books. The Centre organized launches for four of our Associates, details of which can be found in the Events section. Indeed, it was very rewarding to participate in the celebration of the significant accomplishments of feminist Faculty at York University.

Our research clusters are also growing. In addition to clusters on Gender and Public Policy, Anti-Racist Feminist Interventions into the Academy, Girlhood Studies, Memory and Memorialisation, Discourses of Trafficking and Sexuality Studies and LGBT Activism, two new research clusters are emerging: a reading group on Queer Affect Theory, and a research cluster in Feminist Cultural Production. If you are interested in these clusters or organizing a new cluster please contact Jessica Balmer.

CFR continues to be a destination for international scholars. During the past year we hosted Elizabeth Higginbotham (University of Delaware), Tiffany Muller Myrdahl (University of Lethbridge), and Neelam Kumar (National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies [NISTADS], in New Delhi, India) as visiting scholars. We also hosted an international post-doctoral

student, Michelle Gewurtz (Brandeis University).

We also hosted or supported a number of public lectures by international and national scholars, conferences and symposiums. Notably, most of these events were organized in collaboration with an Associate, a research cluster or research project. Public lectures included those by Elizabeth Higginbotham, Diane Roberts, Li Shuzhuo, Susan Stryker, Jane Gallop, Jacinta Muteshi, Dr. Uladzislau Belavusau, Alison Crosby, Neelam Kumar and Tiffany Muller Myrdahl. In collaboration with Prof. Nancy Nicol, CFR hosted a panel on Global LGBT Rights that featured Gautam Bham, Naisargi Dave and Nancy Nicol. In collaboration with the Institute for Feminist Legal Studies, CFR hosted a media relations workshop with Shari Graydon of Informed Opinions. In collaboration with Prof. Kamala Kempadoo, CFR organized a symposium that featured presentations by Carol Leigh, an independent film maker located in the United States, alongside presentations by undergraduate and graduate students.

The Centre provided a number of opportunities for the training and mentoring of graduate students. These opportunities range from membership on the CFR Executive, being assigned to CFR as a GA, being employed in research projects housed at CFR, workshops with international scholars, and opportunities to present their work. CFR also supported Prof. Anna Agathangelou and a team of scholars and experts in hosting a Research/Writing Skills workshop for graduate students. When we had the opportunity to invite an international or national scholar, in order to provide graduate students with

an opportunity to meet with these scholars in a small group, we organized a workshop specifically for these purposes. These workshops were open to all graduate students on campus – and by all reports graduate students have found them tremendously beneficial. We are also working to expand opportunities for graduate students. The number of departments that allocate a graduate student to CFR has increased to six. We have also worked with graduate students to develop a graduate student run feminist journal. We are hoping the journal will be launched this fall. If you are interested in the journal please contact Jessica Balmer (jbalmers@yorku.ca).

In the past year, the Centre has launched a revamped website. The website allows CFR to post its weekly newsletters, upcoming events and pertinent news. It also documents our current and past research projects, events, and research clusters. Importantly, it will have podcasts of talks hosted by CFR. A membership form is also available via the website. When you have a moment, please take a look at the site, as not only is it informative, but also the staff and graduate students who worked on this are very proud of it. Of course, CFR continues to publish a weekly e-newsletter that informs recipients about CFR activities, encourages them to get involved with CFR and tracks feminist related activities and opportunities at York, in Toronto and elsewhere. We are pleased to report that we have built our recipient list to 1057 people.

We have been working to establish stronger links with community organizations. CFR collaborated with CASSA to organize a historical project entitled “Brown Canada”, and an up-

coming conference on Gender Equity. CFR supported Andil Gosine in the mounting of an art exhibit entitled “Cutlass” at OnlyOneGallery. A number of the projects housed at the Centre have also undertaken important initiatives that involved community partners. Nancy Nicol and her team members have participated in multiple workshops and roundtables wherein community agencies and individuals have been provided consultation on LGBT asylum issues. Nancy Nicol also hosted a knowledge mobilization workshop for students with the 519 Community Centre and several video workshops in India and the Caribbean. Professor Barbara Cameron collaborated with Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA), the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, the Poverty and Human Rights Centre, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada to develop a feminist response to the federal budget. The Negotiating Sexualities: A Study of Youth and Development in Guyana project works closely with Red Thread Research Team in Guyana.

Finally, in the past year we finalized a number of changes to our governance structure. The Director, in consultation with the CFR Executive, the administration and the CFR membership, has been rewriting the Standing Rules for the Centre. In the spring of 2012, a new governance document was approved by the CFR Executive. The new governance document will be available on the CFR website in October. Three particular changes have been implemented.

First, there is a new council for the Centre. The Council of Associates is composed of Research Associates, Faculty Associates, stu-

dent members and staff representatives in the Centre. The Council will meet at least once a year. All members of the Centre will get an email notice of the meeting. The meetings will normally be held in the fall. During its meeting, the Director and the Executive will present an annual report. We are hoping that the Council will be another mechanism for CFR Associates to be involved in the Centre.

Second, the Executive Committee for the Centre will include a representative from each of the following Faculties: LA&PS, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Education, Health Sciences and Osgoode Hall Law School. It is expected that this structure will allow the Centre to continue to strengthen its role as a pan-University research centre.

Third, there are new categories for membership. The practice at CFR since its inception has been to welcome any faculty member, graduate student, visiting scholar or community researcher who indicates that they want to be affiliated with CFR. CFR had made no distinction between people actively involved in the Centre's administrative and research activities and those who have indicated a wish to be involved or kept informed of CFR activities. As a result, this membership structure did not provide any indication of which members wish to be actively involved in the Centre. While CFR continues to welcome any faculty member who wishes to be associated with the Centre, the new categories of membership ask for faculty to indicate their level of anticipated involvement. Research Associates are expected to participate in the research and intellectual life of the Centre by submitting and/or administering research grants through the Centre, or being active in

a research cluster, or by organizing workshops and conferences. Faculty Associates are expected to participate in the research and intellectual life of the Centre by being involved or being informed of CFR activities. In the spring of 2012, the staff at CFR contacted all of the current associates, asking them to resubmit their application for membership. If you have not done so, please do so. The applications are available on our website.

Plans for Upcoming Year

Our objective for 2012/13 is to build on the vibrancy and productivity of the past year – by continuing to support and build on the excellent quality and innovativeness of feminist research at York University.

Crucial in this is to continue to assist our Research Associates in developing research proposals or proposals for conferences and workshops in cutting edge areas of feminist research. CFR can provide pre-award support for applications, including assistance in developing budgets, reviews of drafts of proposals and support for uploading and submitting applications. CFR is also able to provide post-award support. If you are interested in this support, please contact me at edua@yorku.ca.

A major initiative being planned for 2012/13 is to expand CFR's role as a public intellectual in public spaces. One of the unique strengths of York University is the number of leading edge feminist scholars. There is also a large national feminist audience that is interested in accessing this knowledge. For the past year, the Director has been exploring the requirements for developing a pilot pro-

ject that employs social media by developing a feminist blog on which we post bi-monthly short articles on feminist issues, with a number of other components for social networking. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Jessica Balmer.

In addition to this, CFR is planning to develop two publication venues. The first is a working paper series. The second is a publication venue designed for graduate students.

And finally, but not least, CFR will continue to collaborate with our Associates in inviting international and national feminist scholars to give public talks at York. We anticipate that these scholars will offer workshops for graduate students. A schedule of the events planned so far is posted in this newsletter.

Finally, in July 2013, CFR's charter as an Organized Research Unit (ORU) will expire. In accordance with the Senate policy, CFR will be submitting an application for a new charter. In this process we will be consulting with our Associates. Information on this process will be presented at the Meet and Greet & Council meeting scheduled for **Thursday, October 18, 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

The past year was also a year in which we experienced significant losses to our feminist community. Speaking on behalf of all of our Associates, it is with great sadness that we received the news that two of our esteemed colleagues, Professor Shelagh Wilkinson and Professor Varpu Lindström had passed away. Both were pillars of the feminist community at York, their losses are deeply grieved and their daily presence in our lives is dearly missed. Among their many contributions,

Professor Wilkinson was the first Director of the Centre for Feminist Research and Professor Lindström was one of the early scholars to establish a crucial area of scholarship – immigrant women's history. Indeed, their contributions to feminist scholarship and the feminist community will long be remembered and appreciated by all of us. This newsletter includes short reflections on Varpu and Shelagh. I know that we all share in wishing their loved ones our condolences.

I would like to conclude my remarks with a special "thanks!" to Jessica Balmer, the CFR Coordinator, whose commitment and expertise has made all of these activities possible. Also a special thanks to our graduate student assistants in 2011/12, Ifrah Abdillahi, Alison Hill, S.K. Hussan, and Abena Offeh-Gyimah.

I wish you all a healthy and rewarding academic year 2012/13.

Professor Enakshi Dua
Director of the Centre for Feminist Research
York University

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**A NOTE FROM THE
COORDINATOR**

Hello all,
I invite you to visit our [website](#) for important news and updates on our research and events. Looking forward to an exciting year.

Jessica Balmer
Coordinator of the Centre for Feminist Research
York University



IN MEMORIAM: VARPU LINDSTRÖM



Varpu Lindström
1948–2012

York University has lost a valued colleague, scholar, teacher and friend. Varpu Lindström died in June after a three-year battle with brain cancer. Born in Helsinki in 1948, Varpu moved to Canada with her family when she was 14. She went on to complete a PhD in History at York University in 1986, and was then appointed to Atkinson College to teach History and Women's Studies. Varpu quickly established her reputation as a path-breaking feminist scholar. Her 1988 book *Defiant Sisters: A Social History of Finnish Immigrant Women in Canada* charted new territory in the history of women, work and migration. *Defiant Sisters* placed the daily labours and struggles of immigrant working-class women at the centre of Canadian history and thus provided a model for feminist research on gender, ethnicity, work and migration. Varpu's subsequent scholarship shed new light on other dimensions of Finnish migration history. In 2004, Varpu's research on Finnish Canadians who repatriated in the 1930s was used to produce the Gemini Award winning documentary film *Letters from Karelia* (2004). Even as her health failed, Varpu remained a dedicated scholar, publishing a collection of letters she had written in her youth, *Letters from an Immigrant Teenager: Letters to Kaisa, 1963-1965* (2012).

Varpu's passion for her research was infectious. When she talked about her latest "find" in the archive, she sparkled. And she brought that same energy to her students' projects. Varpu never wavered in her support for her graduate students, encouraging them to push through difficult patches, and insisting that their work mattered. She was equally enthusiastic when working with undergraduates: I remember running into her a number of years ago as she coming out of a fourth year seminar on "Immigration History" she was teaching. Varpu beamed with excitement as she told me about the excellent discussion her students had just had.

Varpu's confidence that we could all do well – could all do better – was equally evident in the leadership and service she provided York University. Among her many administrative posts, she served as Chair of the Chair of the School of Women's Studies from 1999-2001. Varpu worked tirelessly to secure space, academic appointments, scholarship money and alumni support for York's Women's Studies program. As Director of Undergraduate Programs, I marveled at Varpu's persistence and tenacity, qualities always tempered by tact and restraint. And Varpu loved to host events: whether a seasonal lunch with all the School staff or a dinner to celebrate student achievement or a cup of tea in the afternoon, Varpu loved an opportunity to pause and say "thank you" and "well done."

Of course, Varpu's many contributions to York University and to feminist research here are only part of her story. She was a devoted mother and partner and, more recently, grandmother. Founder of the Canadian Friends of Finland society, Varpu was an internationally recognized scholar of Finland and the Finnish diaspora, and was recognized for her work with the Knight First Class of the Order of the White Rose of Finland (1991) and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).

Varpu made a wonderful contribution to our programs and our students, bringing to each task her sharp analysis and her brilliant smile. It has been very sad to say goodbye to such a wonderful friend and colleague.

Written by Kate McPherson Associate Professor, Department of History

IN MEMORIAM: SHELAGH WILKINSON



Shelagh Wilkinson

Shelagh Wilkinson was the founding director of the Centre for Feminist Research at York.

Scholar and an activist, York Professor Emerita Shelagh Wilkinson (BA '68, Hon. LLD '09) has died following a battle with cancer. She died peacefully at home on Nov. 16, 2011, in her 84th year.

Professor Wilkinson was the first editor and a tireless supporter of *Canadian Woman Studies*, a journal that raised the profile of women's issues in an inclusive way, incorporating research other than scholarly or government studies as well as poetry and life-writing.

A professor of English literature at York University, Wilkinson was the founding director of York's Centre for Feminist Research and was instrumental in the creation of the [Women's Studies Bridging Program](#) at York, which has brought many women across the divide between their lives in the community and the world of academia, an example of her academic outreach and quest for social justice.

In 2009, during Fall Convocation ceremonies, York University honoured her many accomplishments with an honorary doctor of laws degree. As part of her convocation address, she told graduates that the most vital question for her was: How is it possible to create a more equitable world in the future?

"It's an overwhelming problem, I know, and one blanches in front of it," she said. "Each one of us, whether we're in a classroom as a teacher or in an office or a hospital, a lawyer, a counsellor, wherever it is that we find ourselves – is each one of us willing to challenge injustice and not back off? I know you are starting your professional lives in troubling and difficult times, but it is all the more reason, I believe, each one of us must be a catalyst for change."

In 1992, Prof. Wilkinson was awarded a Governor General of Canada Persons Award. Recipients of the Persons Award continue the tradition of courage, integrity and hard work which the [Famous Five of the Persons Case](#) inspired. Their effectiveness and courage has advanced the cause of equality for girls and women in significant and substantial ways that have enriched their communities.

Canadian Woman Studies: Feminism, Activism, and Spirituality. Fall/Winter 2011 Vol. 29, Nos. 1,2 is dedicated to the memory of CWS/CF founder, Shelagh Wilkinson.

Written by Meg Luxton, Graduate Program Director, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

2012-2013 EVENTS

September 6, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Latinada Restaurant, 1671 Bloor St. West

A book launch for *Flaming Souls: Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Social Change in Barbados* by David Murray

David Murray is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sexuality Studies at York University.

September 14-15, 2012

Dynamic Resistances: Complicating, Screwing and Perpetuating Structures in our World

A Graduate Student Conference presented by York's Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies.

September 20, 2012, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Nat Taylor Cinema

A screening of *Sathima's Windsong*

A film by Daniel Yon, following the career of Sathima Bea Benjamin, a South African jazz singer and composer.

October 17, 2012, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

a lecture by Catherine Driscoll

Catherine Driscoll is Associate Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney.

October 18, 2012, 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

CFR Meet and Greet & Council Meeting

New and returning CFR Associates are invited to come learn what CFR has planned for 2012-2013.

October 24, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Aboriginal Student Centre, 246 York Lanes

A book launch for *Fractured Homeland: Algonquin Identity and Federal Recognition in Ontario* by Bonita Lawrence

Bonita Lawrence is a faculty member in the Department of Equity Studies.

October 25, 2012

Graduate Student Workshop with Carla Freeman

Carla Freeman is Winship Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology and Women's Studies and is associated faculty in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Emory University.

October 30, 2012, 2:30 p.m.

a lecture by Sue Williamson

Lecture will discuss "Equality bargaining," involves collectively bargaining for claims which progress equality in the workplace, including gender equality.

November 6, 2012

South Asian Women's Action Collective 1st Annual Gender Equity Conference

Details TBD

November 21, 2012, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., YRT 519

Racism in Academia seminar

Speakers will address the challenges of identifying and naming multiple forms and experiences of racism among differently located individuals and groups in university settings.

November 30-December 2, 2012

Ryerson University

Critical Perspectives on Canadian Anti-Trafficking Policy, a conference

This event will offer a unique opportunity for academics, sex workers, migrant labourers, and front line service providers to advance critical and strategic dialogue and research about the realities of human trafficking in Canada.

Other upcoming events:

A book launch for Eva Karpinki's *Other Tongues*

A launch for a special issue of *Canadian Woman Studies*, Jacinthe Michaud, Leah Vosko and Susan Braedley (Eds.)

Lectures by CFR Visiting Scholars

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

LINDA BRISKIN

Linda Briskin is a Professor of Social Science/School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University. She published a number of works in 2011-2012. Below is a list of her publications:

"Merit, Individualism and Solidarity: Revisiting the Democratic Deficit in Union Women's Leadership." In *Gendering and Diversifying Trade Union Leadership*. eds. Sue Ledwith and Lisa Lotte Hansen. Routledge (in press);

"Resistance, Mobilisation and Militancy: Nurses on Strike." *Nursing Inquiry*, _online Nov 2011; forthcoming Sept 2012;

Promoting Gender Equality through Social Dialogue: Global Trends and Persistent Obstacles. Co-authored with Angelika Muller. Industrial and Employment Relations Department (DIALOGUE), Working Paper #34, International Labour Office, Geneva, December 2011;

"Trade Unions, Collective Agency and the Struggle for Women's Equality: Expanding the Political Empowerment Measure." In *Making Globalization Work for Women: Women Workers' Social Rights and Trade Union Leadership*, eds. Valentine Moghadam, Suzanne Franzway, and Mary Margaret Fonow. State University of New York Press (SUNY), 2011, pp. 214-243;

"The Militancy of Nurses and Union Renewal." *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, Vol. 17, No. 4, November 2011, pp. 485-499;

"Union Renewal, Post-Heroic Leadership and Women's Organizing: Crossing Discourses, Reframing Debates." *Labor Studies Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 4, December 2011, pp. 508 - 537. ;

"Att kartlägga sjuksköterskornas militans: Politiseringen av vården, det offentliga stödet och strejkerna" (Uncovering Nurse Militancy: The Politicization of Caring, Public Support and Strike Action). *Arbetshistoria: Journal of the Labour Movement Archives and Library* Stockholm, Issue 2-3, nr 138-139, 2011, pp.45-53 Translated by Karin Englund.

SHEILA CAVANAGH

Sheila Cavanagh was awarded a Public Outreach SSHRC Dissemination grant for her performance ethnography the "Queer Bathroom Monologues" (QBM). The QBM is based on fictionalized monologues inspired by interviews with lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) folks published in *Queering Bathrooms: Gender, Sexuality and the Hygienic Imagination* (2010). The interviewees describe homophobic and transphobic experiences in the binary gendered toilet and how this room conditions hegemonic ideas about the body, sex and gender. A myriad of stories are told spanning from the devastating, to the sublime; the traumatic, to the passionate; the mundane, to the curious; the comic and everything in between. The QBM enacts how the rigidly gendered space of the toilet is both an opportunity for same-sex encounters but also an arena where gender binaries are strictly enforced.

The play premiered at the Toronto Fringe Festival in July, 2011, and, after an eight-day run, won the Audience Pick Award. It will now be developed as a professional production at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre for a larger, community based audience in the greater Toronto area. The project production will be administered through the Centre for Feminist Research and the community partners are Brendan Healy, the artistic director at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre; Helen Kennedy, the executive director of Egale; Katina Watson, the Director of Programs and Services at YouthLink; Dr. Debra Pepler, the director of the LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research; and the Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York University. Dr. Laura Levin and Dr. Judith Rudakoff in the Department of Theatre at York University are project participants.

Since the premiere at Fringe, the *Queer Bathroom Monologues* has been invited to and staged at George Brown College, Toronto (March 22, 2012); the 'Walking the Talk: Human Rights in Higher Education' conference sponsored by the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment in Higher Education, Toronto (May 4, 2012); and at the Canadian Sociological Association annual meeting, SSHRC Congress, as a special event following the President's reception, Wilfrid Laurier University (May 31, 2012).

Prof. Cavanagh also counts the following awards and publications among her accomplishments in 2011-2012:

(2012) Seed Grant for an International Collaboration entitled "Psychoanalysis in Mexico."

(2012) CWSA/ACEF Outstanding Scholarship Prize Honourable Mention for *Queering Bathrooms: Gender, Sexuality, and the Hygienic Imagination*.

(2011)GLBT Indie Book Award Finalist for *Queering Bathrooms: Gender, Sexuality, and the Hygienic Imagination*.

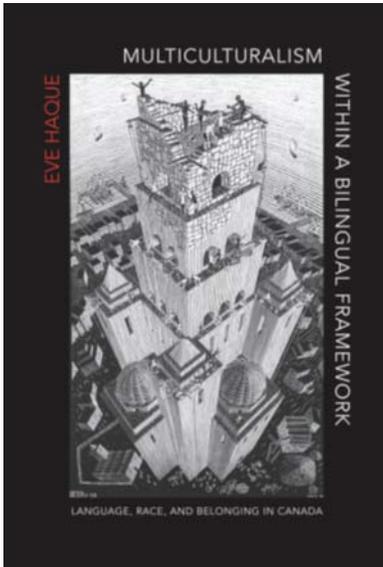
(2011) "Queer Notes on Sex Education in Ontario" In *Contemporary Studies in Canadian Curriculum: Principles, Portraits and Practices* (Eds.) Darren Stanley and Kelly Young. Calgary: Detselig Press, 237-269.

(2011) "You are where you urinate" *Gay and Lesbian Review*. 18(4): 18-20.

ALISON CROSBY

As part of the research project *Understanding Women's Struggles for Justice, Healing and Redress: A Study of Gender and Reparation in Postwar Guatemala*, Alison Crosby and her colleague Professor M. Brinton Lykes from Boston College published the article "Mayan women survivors speak: The gendered relations of truth-telling in postwar Guatemala" in the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* (Vol. 5, pp.456-476), and have two book chapters in press: "Feminist Practice of Action and Community Research," in *Feminist Research Practice: A Primer* (Second Edition), edited by Sharlene Hesse-Biber (Thousand Oaks: SAGE publications), and "Creative Methodologies as a Resource for Mayan women's Protagonism" in *Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding: Towards an integrated psychosocial approach*, edited by Brandon Hamber. Prof. Crosby also received a new two-year grant from IDRC for this project, to complement funds already received from SSHRC.

EVE HAQUE



Multiculturalism within a Bilingual Framework: Language, Race, and Belonging in Canada explores the roots of multiculturalism and bilingualism in Canada to show that these two important Canadian policies are inextricably linked and operate together as a contemporary national narrative, famously formulated by Pierre Trudeau as 'multiculturalism within a bilingual framework.' Both official bilingualism and multiculturalism emerged out of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism of the 1960s, which was established to address the emerging contestations to Anglo-Celtic hegemony from not only Francophone but also Indigenous and other racial and ethnic communities in Canada. Haque undertakes a comprehensive analysis of archival material, including transcripts of royal commission hearings, memos, and reports, to reveal the conflicts underlying the emergence of multiculturalism policy. This book explains how, in this era, the push from historically marginalized communities for recognition and national belonging led to a decisive shift of the national narrative onto the terrain of language and culture in order to maintain white settler hegemony while disavowing racial and ethnic exclusions.

Eve Haque is an associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics and the Department of Equity Studies at York University.

ALLYSON MITCHELL

FAG Feminist Art Gallery, founded by Allyson Mitchell and Deirdre Logue, is curating a satellite exhibition at Access Gallery in Vancouver from August 28- October 14. As part of the exhibitions they will present at the international conference Institutions by Artists. Part of the exhibition will include banners titled "Can't/Won't" recently produced for Tate Modern in London England. This project was recently featured in Maclean's Magazine.

Mitchell also has a solo exhibition titled "Creep Lez" at Katharine Mulherin Gallery in Toronto opening September 7 and running until September 30. This exhibition is inspired by homicidal lesbian terrorist Hot Head Paisan and tie die west coast fashion flow, craft forward feminist Allyson Mitchell decentralizes the canon in her new exhibition Creep Lez. Tuck in your nuts and hide your babies while Mitchell weaves queer theory as material with thrift store failure to stroke the abject and agitate the political. Through sculpture, drawing and video, Toronto's favorite "women studies professor gone wild" offers up : "This Venis is a Pagina", "Central Core Imagrah" and "Sheila Pepe's Moustache" as new works. Mitchell was successful in receiving a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts to produce the lesbian feminist haunted house called Kill Joy's Kastle, in association with the AGYU Art Gallery of York University in September 2013.



NANCY NICOL

In June 2012, *Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights* released a report, titled “Envisioning LGBT Refugee Rights in Canada: Exploring Asylum Issues.” The report is based on a Round Table Dialogue with members of 14 organizations, as well as two conference presentations by *Envisioning*. It provides a preliminary overview of issues for LGBT asylum seekers, including: their experiences and obstacles; ways that service providers are trying to meet their needs; service gaps; and the impact of current legal changes, especially Bill C-31.

Envisioning Global LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Human Rights is an international research project housed at the Centre for Feminist Research. As a participatory action research project, *Envisioning* brings together 34 partners internationally, and Canadian partners are actively engaged with the research. *Envisioning* convened the Round Table to seek input from service providers to shape the continuing research and to reach out to refugees and asylum seekers for interviews. It is hoped that the report will be useful to the sector, especially in working with policy makers and decision makers.

Nancy Nicol is the Principal Investigator for *Envisioning*. Nick J. Mulé and Erika Gates-Gasse wrote the report. For a PDF copy, please contact envision@yorku.ca.



ELLIE PERKINS

Ellie Perkins has a forthcoming chapter entitled, “Environmental activism and gender” which was submitted December 1, 2011 for publication in *Gender and Economic Life*, edited by Deborah Figart and Tonia Warnecke (Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar). She also presented a paper entitled, “Degrowth, equity, and feminism,” in panel on “Occupy Earth: Ecofeminist perspectives II” at the Left Forum, Pace University, Mar. 16-18, 2012.

ELIZABETH SABISTON

Elizabeth Sabiston received a SSHRC grant of \$25,000 from the Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences program (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012) for the international conference, “Pluri-Culture and Migrant Writings: An Interdisciplinary Approach.” The conference was held May 17-20, 2012 at York. It was also supported by the Office of the Dean (LAPS), the Office of the Vice-President Academic, Stong College, French Studies, and the English Department. The stated objective of the conference was to reflect on a variety of discourses which address migration – national, social, or individual – and the relationship of those discourses to cultural pluralism. The conference was interdisciplinary and bilingual. While contemporary migration is most often viewed from the perspective of material advancement, we emphasized the cultural values each migrant brings with him. Thus we stressed the analysis of Pluri-Culture, or Cultural Diversity, in all its manifestations,

both “high” and popular. Presenters came from all over the world: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Cameroon, Sénégal, China, France, Italy, Spain, as well as the United States and Canada. Their fields included languages and literatures, anthropology, social science, film studies, theatre, kinesiology, journalism. There were a number of sessions devoted to immigrant women writers and to female immigration. From every point of view, the conference was a resounding success. The most significant result has been the networking of both younger and established scholars, across disciplines and from many countries, who have continued email contact with each other and with the CMC. We are now at work on the Proceedings.

Elizabeth Sabiston is Director of the Canada-Mediterranean Centre (CMC) (French Studies/Stong College) at York University.

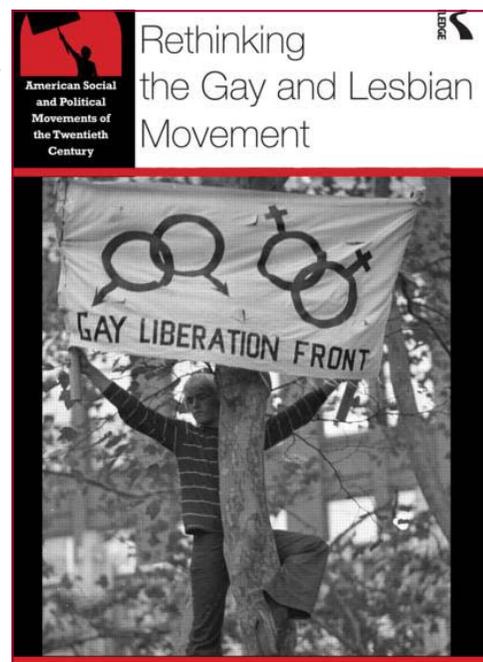
MARC STEIN

Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement provides a new narrative history of U.S. gay and lesbian activism, drawing on primary research in the field and the best scholarship on the history of the gay and lesbian movement.

Focusing on four decades of social, cultural, and political change in the second half of the twentieth century, Stein examines the changing agendas, beliefs, strategies, and vocabularies of a movement that encompassed diverse actions, campaigns, ideologies, and organizations. From the homophile activism of the 1950s and 1960s, through the rise of gay liberation and lesbian feminism in the 1970s, to the multi-cultural and AIDS activist movements of the 1980s, Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement provides a strong foundation for understanding gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer politics today.

Rethinking the Gay and Lesbian Movement provides a short, accessible overview of an important and transformational struggle for social change, highlighting key individuals and events, influential groups and networks, strong alliances and coalitions, difficult challenges and obstacles, major successes and failures, and the movement’s lasting effects on the country. This volume will be valued by everyone interested in gay and lesbian history, the history of social movements, and the history of the United States.

Marc Stein is Professor of History and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies at York University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



SANDRA WHITWORTH

Sandra Whitworth was named the 'Eminent Feminist Scholar' for 2012 by the Feminist Theory and

Gender Studies Section of the International Studies Association. A panel was held in Sandra's honour at the ISA Annual Meetings in San Diego in April of this year, chaired by Lisa Prügl of the Graduate Institute in Geneva and Chair of the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section with panelists Liz Philipose (California State University Long Beach, Sandra's first Ph.D student); Catherine Eschle (University of Strathclyde in Scotland and Sandra's co-editor during her term as editor of International Feminist Journal of Politics); Craig Murphy (University of Massachusetts Boston) and Cynthia Enloe, (Clark University, Boston, Mass).



ISA Annual Meeting panelists from left: Liz Philipose, Catherine Eschle, Lisa Prügl, Sandra Whitworth, Craig Murphy, and Cynthia Enloe.

Sandra will also be visiting Memorial University in Newfoundland for a week in the Fall of 2012 as the Henrietta Harvey Distinguished Lecturer. She will be giving two public talks and will also run an advanced undergraduate/graduate class for the Departments of Women's Studies and Political Science.

Please email cfr@yorku.ca to add your news to next year's newsletter or to see it on our website, yorku.ca/cfr

MARY MCEWAN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Mary McEwan Memorial Scholarship Award is named in honour of Dr. Mary McEwan, a feminist psychologist, and it commemorates an exceptional feminist for her commitment to scholarship and radical change.

2010-2011 winner:

Dr. Lee Wing Hin (Vivian)



*"I'm Not Homophobic, I'm Chinese":
Hong Kong Canadian Discourses of Heterosexuality, Homosexuality, and Multiculturalism in Same-Sex Marriage Debates, 2002-2006"*

This dissertation is a multidisciplinary study of the Toronto Hong Kong Canadian participation in the same-sex marriage debates in 2002-2006. It demonstrates how responses by and towards Hong Kong Canadians in the marriage debates expose multiple fractures in the Canadian doctrine of cultural, religious, and sexual pluralism. The method of this dissertation consists of oral interviews, critical engagements with popular media, and discourse analysis. It uses articles from secular and Christian Chinese periodicals and the mainstream and gay press, campaign materials, court documents, and interviews with Hong Kong Canadian activists. The central argument is that religious beliefs, immigration experience, colonial history, and multicultural ideologies heavily informed Hong Kong Canadian and mainstream Canadian discourses on heterosexuality, marriage, and same-sex desires. As well, through campaigning for and against marriage reform, activists and politicians articulated divergent and often competing visions of what Canada was and should be.

Vivian is a graduate from the School of Women's Studies (2010). Currently, she works as a policy analyst at a not-for-profit health care organization in Toronto. Vivian believes in critical dialogues on deeply divisive and, sometimes, painful topics as a means to achieving social justice. This dissertation was one such attempt. Developing this project was a life-changing experience for Vivian and she thanks her committee members Ena Dua, Marc Stein, and Mona Oikawa for holding her hand through the process.

CFR VISITING SCHOLARS

CFR is pleased to welcome the following visiting scholars to the Centre for the fall:



Dr. W.S. Kottiswari

Dr. W.S. Kottiswari is Associate Professor of English in the Department of English; Organizer for the Research Centre for Comparative Studies, PG Dept. of English; and Research Guide at the Research Centre for Comparative Studies, PG Dept. of English at Mercy College, Palakkad, Kerala. While at York, Dr. Kottiswari is working on a project entitled *Rethinking Marginalized Subjectivity and the Maternal – A Cross Cultural Study of Indian Dalit and Native Canadian Autobiographies*. The aim of the project is to analyze the literary corpus of representative Indian Dalit and Native Canadian women writers. The discourses of these marginalized women writers are analyzed in order to understand the politics of subjectivity which is caught in the complicated matrix of culture and dominant ideologies. The study also underscores marginalized women's negotiations with mainstream hegemonic culture.



Dr. Jared Sexton

Professor Jared Sexton is visiting York this fall as a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturing Chair. He comes to us from the University of California, Irvine, where he is Associate Professor and Director of the Program in African American Studies and teaches in the Department of Film and Media Studies and the Ph.D. programs in Visual Studies and Culture and Theory. He also holds affiliations at UCI with the Critical Theory Institute and the Center for Law, Culture and Society. Professor Sexton's research examines the political culture and cultural politics of the post-civil rights era United States, focusing on matters of race and sexuality, policing and prisons, multiracial coalition, and contemporary film. He is the

author of *Amalgamation Schemes: Antiracism and the Critique of Multiracialism* (University of Minnesota Press) and co-editor of a special issue of *Critical Sociology* on "Race and the Variations of Discipline." His articles have appeared in journals like *American Quarterly*, *InTensions*, *Qui Parle*, *Radical History Review* and *Social Text* as well as several anthologies on race, politics and popular culture. While in residence at York, Professor Sexton will teach an undergraduate course on black feminist thought for the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and continue working on the manuscript for his next book, *The Shadow of a Color Line: Racial Politics beyond Coalition*.



Dr. Sevasti Trubeta

Dr. Sevasti Trubeta is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of the Aegean in Greece. Her research interests include issues of humanitarianism, biopolitics, eugenics, the social history of medicine, minorities, Roma, racism, migration, refugees, and globalization. While at York, Dr. Trubeta will be working on a project entitled "Social Inequality and Creation of the Perfect Human - Comparison of Eugenics and New Reproductive Technologies (IVF)." This project combines ideas springing out of her previous work on eugenics and the social issues attached to it (with a regional focus on Southeastern Europe) and her

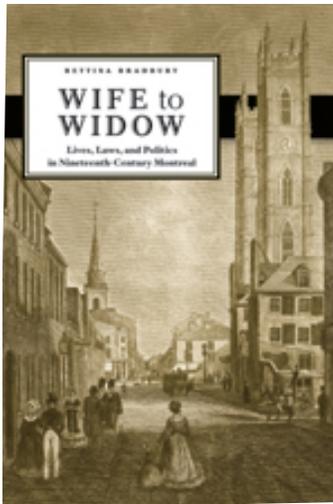
present research in global dimensions of social inequality in application of reproductive technologies, with a special focus on fertility (sperm donation, in vitro fertilization). From an epistemological point of view, the approach is multidisciplinary since it involves disciplines such as social history of medicine, sociology of social inequality and sociology of the body and human reproduction.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011-2012 EVENTS

A book launch for Bettina Bradbury's *Wife to Widow*

September 28, 2011

Students, staff and faculty members celebrated the launch of Bettina Bradbury's new book *Wife to Widow* over a light lunch in the History Department Common



Room. Janice Newton and Kathryn McPherson shared their thoughts on the book, followed by a riveting in-depth exploration of the research and writing process presented by Bradbury. Questions and reflections were shared and appreciated by all.

Sexuality and Queer Politics: The Indian Experience

October 7, 2011

On Friday, October 7th, 2011, Nancy Nicol introduced 'Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights, and guests Gautam Bham and Naisargi N. Dave who spoke about the Indian experience of sexuality and queer politics'. They offered their personal experiences of the community mobilization efforts leading up to the decriminalization of Sec 377, India's anti-sodomy law. Their insights grabbed the attention of activists, academics and community workers in the room, leaving the audience inspired and informed. A significant take away was the power of solidarity- the battle in India was won because it was everyone's issue and as Gautam Bhan quotes "about all of us." As a strategy for advocacy in a diverse society, this is an

important one. There was a charge in the room and positive feedback was abundant. Supported by SSHRC, OISE, CFR. — Vijaya Chikermane, ED, Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention.

Waiting for Mentors: Black Women Attorney's Negotiate Gendered Racism to Create Careers

October 26, 2011

Elizabeth Higginbotham spoke to community members, staff, and students and faculty from a variety of departments on the meaning of race, gender and class in legal workplaces and how they impact the professional socialization of Black American women attorneys. The event was sponsored by CFR, the School of Women's Studies and the Women's Studies Graduate Program. Introduced by CFR's Ena Dua, Dr. Higginbotham delivered a fascinating presentation, followed by an informal discussion with attendees over tea and refreshments.



"The Arrivals Creation Process: Recovering the Lost Body" with Diane Roberts, a VIVA! Workshop

October 30, 2011

Diane Roberts is a Caribbean Canadian theatre artist working from an AfriCentric perspective, which has informed the development of The Personal Legacy Project and The Arrivals Project in the past five years. She is currently artistic director of urban ink productions, that develops and

produces aboriginal and diverse cultural works of theatre, writing and film, integrating artistic disciplines, and bringing together different cultural and artistic perspectives and inter-racial experiences. Her chapter in the VIVA! book, "The Lost Body: Recovering Memory – A Personal Legacy" reflects on the process she has developed to help actors explore their ancestral histories, through both archival and embodied research.

**A book launch for Ali Kazimi's
*Undesirables:
White Canada and the Komagata Maru*
November 1, 2011**

Invited faculty, students, friends and supporters joined Ali Kazimi to help celebrate the launch of his new book *Undesirables*. Dr. Ena Dua provided a warm introduction, followed by a brief, visually arresting presentation by the author on the content and process of the book. Signed copies of the book were provided to attendees--with the promise that as preliminary readers they would complete a survey on their reactions.

**A workshop with Shari Graydon of In-
formed Opinions
December 5, 2011**

On December 5, 2012, a variety of female York Faculty members gathered to learn how to launch their research-based expertise into the sphere of public debate at the Informed Opinions workshop. According to workshop materials: "Our [female academics'] research deserves and needs an audience beyond academic journals. As academics and at the institutional level we are committed to getting wide exposure for our research so that it can influence debate, policy and future research. Getting our knowledge into popular forms of media like newspapers is one important way for research to make an impact. But often our skills don't extend to writing for these outlets. Furthermore, statistics show a significant gender gap in who is given media exposure as experts across many areas. This

workshop aims to close that gap, by providing training to female academics that is specifically aimed at breaking into mainstream media outlets as expert commentators." The workshop was attended by two dozen individuals and enjoyed by all.

**CFR Meet & Greet
January 19, 2012**

Existing CFR Associates and interested newcomers gathered on January 19, 2012, to learn about and discuss CFR over light refreshments. Research interests of those present were shared and many connections were made. Following the Meet & Greet, a meeting for CFR Associates was held to discuss new business.



**Gender Imbalance and Social Development in China: Consequences and Policies
January 26, 2012**

As part of the International Development Studies seminar series, on 26 January Dr. Li Shuzhuo, professor and director of the Institute for population and development studies in Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an discussed the recent trends and patterns in gender imbalance in China, its social consequences, public policies and social responses, challenges, and new campaign "Care for Girls".

**Cross-Dressing for Empire: Embodying
White Masculinity Through Performance in
San Francisco's Bohemian Club, 1870s-1920s.
January 30, 2012**

On January 30, historian and sexuality scholar Susan Stryker presented a fascinating and entertaining lecture entitled "Cross Dressing for Empire: Embodying White Masculinity through

Performance in San Francisco's Bohemian Club, 1870s-1920," which argued that, far from being frivolous diversions, these performances played an integral role in shaping club members' conceptualization of their role in the administration of the U.S. Pacific Empire. Following the presentation, Dr. Stryker opened the floor to questions from the audience. This lecture was presented by The School of Women's Studies, the Sexuality Studies Program, the Department of History, the Sociology Department, the Division of Social Science and the Centre for Feminist Research.

VPRI Social Sciences and Humanities Research Day

February 1, 2012

Did you walk through Vari Hall on February 1st? Maybe you saw us! CFR participated in York's VPRI Social Sciences and Humanities Research Day, a gathering of Research Centres and Institutes such including the Homeless Hub and the City Institute. This was a chance for students, faculty and other researchers to see what CFR and our Associates have been up to for the past year. Centre research, publications and events were highlighted.

Precocious Jouissance: Roland Barthes, Amatory Maladjustment, and Emotion

February 8, 2012

Students, professors and fans of Jane Gallop's work gathered Wednesday February 8, 2012 at York University. Those familiar with her books, essays and articles along with some being introduced to Gallop's extensive, broad body of work received the noted feminist theorist and acclaimed scholar with a warm reception. Precarious Jouissance: Roland Barthes, Amatory Maladjustment, and Emotion, was simply superb. Gallop attempts a magnificent theoretical exercise as she reads a text by Barthes in an effort to forge new spaces in Queer theory. She presents a compelling argument for why Barthes, while not expressly a feminist by any means, is still useful in providing a framing of Queer theory in

celebration of sexual dysfunction. Gallop presented a witty, intellectually stimulating lecture with effortless charm while conceptualizing what might soon be a staple in Queer theory.

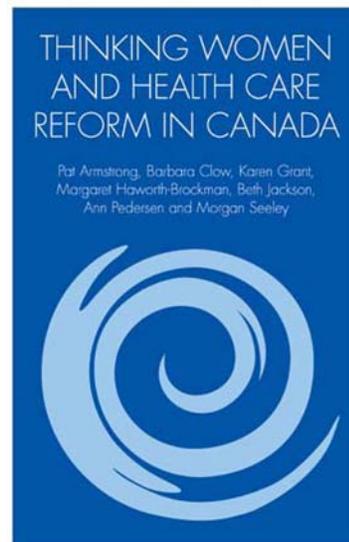
Thinking Women and Health Care Reform: A Seminar and Book Launch

February 14, 2012

Twenty students and staff from a number of departments gathered in the Sociology Common Room to participate in a Book Launch for Thinking Women and Healthcare Reform in Canada. This event, which took place on February 14th, featured a panel of presentations from three of the book's authors. Alison Jayman, a doctoral candidate in Sociology, discussed her chapter on "Women and Private Health Insurance."

Women's Studies PhD candidate Morgan Seeley presented "Women and Long Term Residential Care." The panel was headed by Pat Armstrong, a professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at York, who discussed the making of the book, and her own chapter, "Framing Healthcare as a Woman's Issue,

and an Issue for Specific Women." The publisher was also present, offering the book for purchase at a special event discount.



Sisterhood Revisited: Local, Transcontinental and Global Feminist Struggles

March 8, 2012,

York Faculty members, staff and students, friends and community members gathered on International Women's Day 2012 in Founders' Senior Common Room for a lecture carefully

prepared and thoughtfully delivered by Dr. Jacinta Muteshi. Dr. Muteshi spoke about gender, violence, government and policy initiatives and women's activism, as drawn from her research and experience living and working in Nigeria. The complex relationships built between these various actors inspired a complex question and answer session that engaged the entire audience and drew the talk to and across new borders. Dr. Muteshi works as a scholar, advisor and consultant in the field of women rights and gender equality with over 20 years working in diverse international, regional and national fora. She was educated at the State University of New York, McGill University and University of Toronto where she obtained her Ph.D. She currently lives in Nigeria.

From Bleeding Hearts to Critical Thinking: Exploring the Issue of Human Trafficking

March 19 –20, 2012

Stories about human trafficking, particularly 'sex trafficking' abound in the media. Yet what do we make of such stories and what can we do to address the issue? This year two courses in Development Studies and Women's Studies gave undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to study such questions in depth. Some of the results of the student study and research will be presented at a conference on March 20, 2012 in Founders College Senior Common Room, 9am-5pm. The aim of the conference is to animate critical thinking amongst the wider York University community about human trafficking narratives and to exchange ideas about strategies for change. At the conference, in addition to multiple student presentations, the internationally renowned sex worker rights' activist Carol Leigh will present her video documentaries about sex



work and trafficking, and the second edition of the book edited by Professor Kamala Kempadoo *Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work and Human Rights* will be launched. The conference is free and open to the public.

Creative Methodologies as a Resource for Mayan Women's Protagonism

March 20, 2012

Approximately 20 people attended the talk by Professor Alison Crosby, *Creative Methodologies as a Resource for Mayan Women's Protagonism*, which was chaired by Barbara Crow, Associate Dean Research, and co-sponsored by the Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), and CFR. The talk analyzed the transformative potential of the use of creative methodologies, including the arts, embodied practices, and the Mayan cosmovision, in feminist participatory action research processes with Mayan women survivors of violence in Guatemala over the past two decades. This research is a collaboration with Prof. M. Brinton Lykes from Boston College, as part of a transnational research project on psychosocial approaches to trauma headed by Prof. Brandon Hamber, director of the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, and will be published as a chapter in a forthcoming edited volume.

Celebrating "Knowledge Reconsidered: Feminism and the Academy" & "York Women's Studies History to 2011"

March 23, 2012

On Friday 23 March the Institute for Feminist Legal Studies and the Centre for Feminist Research co-sponsored a launch of *Reconsidering Knowledge: Feminism and the Academy* (Fernwood Publishing) edited by Meg Luxton and Mary Jane Mossman. The formal part of the event started with a presentation by Professor Mary Jane Mossman who talked about the

lecture series honouring York's 50th anniversary, which formed the basis of the book. She talked about the themes in the book and located it in the larger issues of feminism and formal knowledge in the academy. Professor Meg Luxton followed with a discussion based on her paper of the issues still facing feminist scholarship. The second part of the launch included the timeline of Women's Studies at York University. Professor Rusty Shteir talked about the importance of retaining historical records of the development of Women's Studies and of feminist scholarship. Sonia Lawrence, Director of Osgoode's Institute for Feminist Legal Studies, and Ena Dua, Director of the Centre for Feminist Research, reported on current activities at both units.

Stories of the city: Reading urban change through LGBTQ oral histories

April 17, 2012

On Tuesday, April 17, CFR's visiting scholar Tiffany Muller Myrdahl (University of Lethbridge, Women and Gender Studies) presented a lecture entitled "Stories of the City: Reading Urban Change Through LGBTQ Oral History." Based on a portion of her ongoing project, "The Lives of (Sexual) Others: Social Difference and Urban Change in Lethbridge, Alberta," the talk features excerpts of interviews conducted with community members and policy makers in Lethbridge. After the lecture, Dr. Muller Myrdahl answered questions and facilitated discussion with approximately ten participants. This lecture was attended by members of Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, and Women and Gender Studies.

Devising Methods to Regularize and Developing Research/Writing Skills for Graduate Students

April 26 & 27, 2012

In this session, students will be provided a forum for working out problems of conceptualization and structure, the use of evidence, the development of each paper (individually) and also

in relation to each other, techniques for effective writing, drafting and revising, and preparing the final document for publication. We will also practice techniques for presenting a chapter and publishing the articles; Faculty will be given a chance to reflect on the method to regularize this workshop and turn it into a multi-program project for professionalization. Prepared and led by Anna Aganthelelou (Political Science), Christina Sharpe (Tufts University), Alison Crosby (Women's Studies), Jody Berland (Communication Studies), Tracy Arnt (University of Toronto Press), and Karen Murray (Political Science).

Women and Science: Why So Few?

May 1, 2012

On Tuesday, May 1, 2012, CFR's Visiting Scholar Neelam Kumar delivered an engaging talk on why the gender difference in the sciences persists. Drawing on her research as well as personal insight based on years of working as a scientist (most recently with the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), in New Delhi, India) Kumar raised countless questions regarding why this difference is widely known, yet continues to exist. Attendees, from a variety of York faculties and departments as well as the wider community, enjoyed a Q & A with Kumar after her talk.

Fighting Hate Speech in the E.U.

May 10, 2012

The European Union Centre for Excellence hosted Dr. Belavusau an assistant professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (the Netherlands) with expertise in EU law, human rights, comparative constitutional law, and critical theory on May 10, 2012, for a talk titled "Fighting Hate Speech in the E.U." The talk focused mostly on post-2008 cases that appeared in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) where the Court almost entirely ruled against perpetrators of hate speech who had lost at the national level and appealed to the ECHR. The latter portion focused on cases in the European Court of Jus-

tice where some hate speech cases have been ruled upon. The talk concluded with a discussion on what the implications of hate speech rulings which result in criminal proceedings (rather than civil ones) are.

Toronto launch for Ali Kazimi's book *Undesirables: White Canada and the Komagata Maru*

May 29, 2012

The slideshow, interview and Q&A from the Undesirables launch on May 29, 2012, felt like a deep, exploratory dive into the story of the Komagata Maru and its resonance now. The many segments of Canada impacted by this story were well represented at the event – those who were shocked to hear the story for the first time, those who fully understand the story and feel its impact deeply and personally, and those who study and share it with the goal of ensuring that it never happens again. The event was attended by approximately 150 people. Presented by This Is Not a Reading Series, D&M Publishers and the Gladstone Hotel. Co-presented by Council of Agencies Serving South Asians, Centre for Refugee Studies, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario, The Centre for Feminist Research, York's South Asian Studies program, The York Centre for Asian Research and No One Is Illegal.

Brown Canada Showcase: "Sharing Our Stories: Creating New Legacies"

June 27, 2012

On June 27, 2012, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) held the Brown Canada Showcase, "Sharing Our Stories: Creating New Legacies." This informative and entertaining Showcase, focused on South Asians histories in Canada, featured the premiere of the original play "Oh Canada, Oh Komagata Maru!"; a screening of the Brown Canada DVD; the "Our Stories, Our Histories" South Asian history exhibit; an interactive discussion about Racialized & Indigenous histories; and distributed a free resource booklet on South Asian histories in

Canada. Brown Canada is a community-led history project that seeks to document, create and share South Asian histories in Canada initiated by Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA), a social justice umbrella organization working with Ontario's diverse South Asian communities. We acknowledge the financial support of the Community Historical Recognition Program of Citizenship and Immigration Canada in the initial phase of this project.

Cutlass

August 29, 2012

This event has grown from an on-going project Andil Gosine has been working on over the last couple of years (and which initially grew out of a fashion-art collection made while Gosine completed a fellowship at the New York Fashion Institute of Technology in 2010-11). The first of four "art happenings" to be held over the next year, it will showcase the talents of Haitian-Canadian Paris-based feminist singer-songwriter Melissa Laveaux, and aims to "process" and think through some of the "intimate inheritances" of migration and displacement. While the project looks at the story of Indo-Caribbean migration in particular, the project is a more universal examination of the how social ruptures frame/shape/inform personal experiences. Co-Sponsors: Caribbean Studies, University of Toronto; Department of Sociology, York University; and the Centre for Feminist Research, York University.

