


# CENTRE FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH

## NEWSLETTER, 2015-2016

---

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



2015-16 was an exciting and productive year here at CFR, as you will see in the highlights presented in the upcoming pages. First and foremost I would like to thank CFR coordinator Julia Pyryeskina for her hard work, enthusiasm and commitment. Without her, none of our accomplishments would have been possible.

In this past year, in addition to administering all our current grants, we worked with our Associates in developing a number of new research projects. Congratulations to Professor Barbara Cameron for her SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, *Engendering Public Engagement, Democratizing Public Space*, to Professor Anna Pratt for her SSHRC Insight Grant, *Re-crafting Canada-U.S. Maritime Border Control: Shiprider, Jurisdiction and Contested Sovereignities*, and to Professor Carmela Murdocca for her SSHRC Insight Development Grant, *Race, Reparations and Neoliberalism in Canada*. CFR is also a partner in a new SSHRC Partnership Grant headed by Professor Carla Rice from the University of Guelph and Eliza Chandler, Artistic Director of Tangled Art + Disability, entitled *Bodies in Translation: Activist Art, Technology, and Access to Life*. CFR will serve as the organizational hub for the number of York faculty and graduate students who are involved in this project.

Led by Professor Amar Wahab, CFR was successful in obtaining a SSHRC Connection grant for our pilot Summer Institute in Sexuality Studies (SISS), a collaborative initiative with the Sexuality Studies Program, and the Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies (GFWS). The Institute will take place from **June 5-9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, and the theme will be *Perversion at the Crossroads of Critical Race Studies, Psychoanalysis and Queer Theory*. The Institute will be taught by Professor David Eng (University of Pennsylvania), Professor Amber Jamilla Musser (Washington University), Professor Patricia Salah (Queens University) and Professor Amar Wahab (York University). Two GFWS PhD students, Daria Davydova and Toby Wiggins, have worked with us over the past two years to develop this initiative, and will be the Institute's co-coordinators. All lectures and roundtable discussions will be open to the public, and we look forward to seeing many of you there! We will be circulating the call for graduate student participants later this semester, which we invite you to forward to your networks.

I would like to thank our 2015-16 Executive for their invaluable support, advice and commitment: Carys Craig (Osgoode), Roopa Desai Trilokekar (Education), Enakshi Dua (GFWS), Rachel Gorman (Critical Disability Studies/Health), Michael Greyeyes (AMPD), Tania Das Gupta (Equity Studies), Sailaja Krishnamurti (Humanities), Deborah McGregor (Osgoode/FES), Jacinthe Michaud (School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies), Gary Lee Pelletier (GFWS), and Tiffany Pollock (GFWS).

Many thanks are also due to the three Associates who sat on our Mary McEwan Award sub-committee this year: Zoe Newman (chair), Andil Gosine, and Ruby Newman; and to our wonderful GAs for their hard work and dedication: Asmaa Ibnouzahir (GFWS), Pooja Jaiswal (Social Anthropology), Alex MacKenzie (GFWS), Lee McVittie (GFWS), Sydney Neuman (GFWS), Jessica Rochman-Fowler (School of Social Work), Ryan Singh (GFWS), and Taylor Thompson-Henry (GFWS).

In this our 25th anniversary year, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and workshops, and welcome your ideas for future projects and events.

*Dr. Alison Crosby*

# Highlights of 2015-2016 Events

## FILM & VIDEO SCREENINGS

### **JOURNEY TO FIND MYSELF AGAIN: EXPERIENCES OF SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN THE CANADIAN LABOUR MARKET** FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION

September 30, 2015

Discussion with Drs. Tania Das Gupta & Srabani Maitra

"Journey to Find Myself Again" is a short documentary film that presents the employment trajectories of three highly educated immigrant women from South Asia. Looking at the Canadian labour market from their perspective(s) and through a race/gender/class lens, the documentary aims to present how the complex interplay of racial and gendered processes affect immigrant women's employment trajectories and produce complex relations of domination and subordination.



### **BOTTOMHOOD IS POWERFUL** TALK AND VIDEO SCREENING

November 11, 2015

Dr. Nguyen Tan Hoang

The presentation examined the ways that anal erotics and bottom positioning refract the meanings of race, gender, sexuality, and nationality in Asian/American visual culture.

Dr. Hoang argued that "bottomhood" simultaneously enables and constrains Asian American men in moving-image media. Conceived as a sexual position, a social alliance, and an aesthetic form, bottomhood affirms a politics that embraces risk, receptivity, and vulnerability. Gay male video pornography and sex cruising websites constituted case studies.

Co-Sponsors: Sexuality Studies Program, YCAR



## BOOK LAUNCHES

### **ENGENDERING TRANSNATIONAL VOICES: STUDIES IN FAMILY, WORK, AND IDENTITY** BOOK LAUNCH

September 30, 2015

Drs. Guida Man, Rina Cohen, Tania Das Gupta, Carl James, Ann Kim, and Leanne Taylor

*Engendering Transnational Voices* examines the transnational practices and identities of immigrant women, youth, and children in an era of global migration and neoliberalism, and addresses such topics as family relations, gender and work, schooling, remittances, cultural identities, caring for children and the elderly, inter- and multi-generational relationships, activism, and refugee determination.

Co-Sponsors: YCAR, Centre for Refugee Studies, CWSE OISE, and WLU Press.



**WORKING WOMEN:  
WOMEN AND WORK IN WORLD WAR II  
BOOK LAUNCH**  
November 4, 2015

Drs. Marlene Kadar, Doug Freake, Eva C. Karpinski, and  
Patrick Taylor

*Memory: Women and Work in World War II* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2015) speaks to the work women did during the war: the labour of survival, resistance, and collaboration, and the labour of recording, representing, and memorializing these wartime experiences. These efforts are a part of the making of history, and when the process is as personal as many of our contributors' research has been, it is also the working of memory. *Working Memory* brought scholarly attention to the roles of women in World War II that have been hidden, masked, undervalued, or forgotten.

Co-Sponsors: Department of Humanities, School of  
Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies



## TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

**WOMEN IN/ON THE STREET:  
FROM SLUTWALKS TO  
#STREETHARASSMENT**  
October 6, 2015

Dr. Elisabeth Mercier

This presentation offered a critical discourse analysis of the comments and controversies raised by the SlutWalk and the online denunciation of street harassment, in the mainstream media and within the feminist movement. It examined the current issues and tensions surrounding

the street as a means of protest as well as an apparatus of sexual control of women's bodies, at the intersection of new media and social networks.



**THE BLACK SOCIAL ECONOMY:  
BANKER LADIES AND MONEY POOLS IN THE  
AMERICAS**  
PRESENTATION  
October 22, 2016

Dr. Caroline Shenaz Hossein

Millions of Black people in the Americas participate in informal banks (or ROSCAs) - money pools managed by women known as "banker ladies". Dr. Caroline Shenaz Hossein explained how banker ladies organize money pools as a form of contestation against the commercialized banking systems, and explored the deliberate nature of the banker ladies' work in the social economy, and the ways in which women are building socially conscious money systems.

Co-Sponsor: Harriet Tubman Institute



**THE HIDDEN PALACE**  
**EVERYDAY PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCES**  
**OF AFFINITIVE LABOUR IN QUEER JAPANESE**  
**MIGRANT LIVES**  
March 15, 2016

Dr. Dai Kojima, 2015-16 Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar

In this talk, Dr. Dai Kojima discussed formations of queer kinship through his ethnographic engagements with “大/Ooku Vancouver,” a self-organized collective of gay Japanese men located in Vancouver, BC. Carefully attending to informants’ identifications with the popularized drama of women who were both emplaced and displaced (Ooku was the secluded living quarters for the wives and concubines of the Shogun in medieval Japan), this presentation traced the economic, affective and pedagogical dimensions of queer immigrant kinship that Ooku Vancouver (OV) enables. Based on two case studies, OV as an im/migrant entrepreneurial node and OV’s regular, private karaoke events, this talk considered these hidden practices of care and kinship as affinitive labours which structure and mediate intergenerational feelings of loss and collective survival. Dr. Kojima argued for a queering of representations and archives of Japanese im/migration experience beyond stereotypes of stoicism, servitude and silence, and towards a reconceptualization of kinship relations and political possibilities in the Japanese diaspora in Canada.

Co-Sponsors: Department of Anthropology, YCAR, and Sexuality Studies



**FEMINISM AND PALESTINIAN WOMEN’S**  
**STRUGGLES**  
March 17, 2016

Dr. Nahla Abdo

Palestinian women’s experiences in the anti-colonial struggle are as long as their experiences with settler colonialism. Still, and not unlike the struggles and very

existence of their people in general, women’s struggle has largely been ignored, if not silenced. When Palestinian women began to be involved in the armed struggle against settler colonialism, the West in general and the feminist movement more specifically began to take interest in their struggle. This talk discussed the Western feminist discourse on Palestinian women’s struggle and the responses to such discourse by Palestinian women political activists.

Co-Sponsors: Departments of Anthropology, Equity Studies, Social Science, and Political Science; Graduate Programs in Gender, Feminist and Women’s Studies & in Social and Political Thought, the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies.



**WOMEN AS PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS:**  
**AN HISTORICAL CASE STUDY**  
March 22, 2016

Dr. Marjorie Johnstone

Intellectuals have traditionally been understood as those with superior rational, analytic and mental reasoning. These attributes were historically identified as masculine traits, and notable identified public intellectuals were men. This raises the question of when women were able to make their voices heard as public intellectuals – either individually or publically. Furthermore, what did they say? How did they engage in civic debate? Margaret Gould made significant contributions to public discourse during the contested formative years of the welfare state in Canada. Unusually well-educated, she was radicalized by a childhood of poverty in Toronto and the influence of the local Jewish school system, and pursued two careers, in social work and then in journalism. As a female pioneer in both fields, she occupied masculine space and sustained an integrated public voice promoting the institutionalization of social rights in Canadian society.

**THE PROTECTED, THE TARGETED,  
THE CRIMINALIZED:  
CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN  
CANADIAN POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, AND LGB,  
TRANS AND QUEER PEOPLE**  
April 12, 2016

Dr. Alexa DeGagne, 2015-16 Visiting Scholar in  
Sexuality Studies

This presentation examined the history of the relationship between LGB, trans and queer people, and police organizations in Canada in order to consider why and how the recent rapprochement between certain heteronormal LGB Canadian and different police organizations has excluded already marginalized and overly criminalized LGB, trans and queer people, and has at the same time galvanized intersectional social activism among populations that are disproportionately targeted, abused and criminalized by police and the legal justice system.

Co-Sponsor: Department of Anthropology, Sexuality  
Studies



## Co-Sponsored Events & Activities

♦ **Theorizing Anti-Racism: Linkages in Marxism and Critical Race Theories** book launch, with editors Abigail B. Bakan and Enakshi Dua, September 9, organized by OISE

♦ **The West Indian Domestic Scheme: Racialized Labour, Migration & Gender**, November 28, organized by the Harriet Tubman Institute.

♦ **Digging Roots – Music, Love, Politics and Nourishment**, February 1, organized by the Department of Political Science.

♦ **“Real Queer?”** book launch and panel discussion, with author David Murray, February 2, organized by the Centre for Refugee Studies.

♦ **Envisioning LGBT Asylum in Canada: Is Canada a Safe Haven?** seminar with Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights project, February 24, organized by the Centre for Refugee Studies.

♦ **Transnational Blood Temporalities and Anti-Black Technologies of Donation Systems** talk with Dr. OmiSoore Dryden, March 14, organized by the Department of Social and Political Thought.

♦ **2016 Critical Approaches to South Asian Studies Workshop: Intersections of Critical Race and Area Studies**, March 17-18, organized by YCAR.

♦ **Visual Arts After Indentureship** conference, organized by Dr. Andil Gosine, March 19.

♦ **“Gender based violence Against Women in Contemporary France”** talk by Dr. Gill Allwood, April 12, organized by Dr. Heather MacRae and The Jean Monnet Chair at York University.

♦ **Superbutch**, queer fashion show, May 14, organized by Mayworks Festival, Dinah Thorpe and alljackedup.

♦ **Indigenous Environmental Justice (IEJ) Knowledge Sharing Symposium**, May 26, organized by Dr. Deborah McGregor, Osgoode Law School and Faculty of Environmental Studies, and community and university collaborators.

## Featured CFR Co-Sponsored Event

### *And Social Justice for All: Human Rights in the Age of Surveillance Symposium* May 11, 2016

Co-Organized by the Department of Equity Studies, the Centre for Human Rights, and the Centre for Feminist Research.

The conference was a huge success, with 300 participants including 175 high school students and teachers, and 85 Department of Equity Studies (DES) students and faculty members. As well, 25-30 student volunteers from DES supported the event. The day was opened by cultural interpreter, Philip Cote (Moose Deer Point First Nation), with a territory acknowledgement and smudging. Chair of Equity Studies Professor Minoo Derayeh was the convenor, welcoming the congregation and contextualizing the theme of the day, "*Human rights in the age of surveillance.*" Journalist Desmond Cole was the keynote speaker, and gave an inspiring and insightful speech on carding and racial profiling.

Students attended scholar-, activist-, and community worker-run workshops on racial profiling and the state, government and corporate surveillance, Islamophobia, solidarity, and coalition building and cyber bullying.

There were displays throughout the day of student works from Department of Equity Studies and an outstanding exhibition of photographs of Syrian refugees by professional photojournalist / student in DES, Hajir Sharifi.



Crowded panel session



Keynote speaker Desmond Cole



Organizers Drs. Tania Das Gupta and Minoo Derayeh,  
Department of Equity Studies

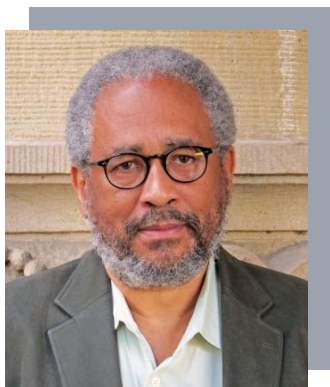
# CFR Graduate-Oriented Events and Graduate Initiatives

## ARCHIVE, FREEDOM, HISTORY AND THE RADICAL IMAGINATION

Graduate Workshop with Dr. Anthony Bogues  
September 8, 2015

This was an opportunity for graduate students to discuss Dr. Bogues' work in a workshop setting.

Dr. Anthony Bogues is a Harmon Family Professor, Professor of Africana Studies and Affiliated Professor of Political Science and Modern Culture and Media at Brown University, where he is currently the director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. His scholarly work includes: *Empire of Liberty: Power, Desire and Freedom*; *The George Lamming Reader: The Aesthetics of Decolonization*; *After Man Towards The Human: Critical Essays on Sylvia Wynter*; and *Black Heretics, Black Prophets: Radical Political Intellectuals*.



## CHRONIQUES D'UNE MUSULMANE INDIGNÉE

PAR/BY ASMAA IBNOUZAHIR  
LANCEMENT DE LIVRE / BOOK LAUNCH  
8 février, 2016 / February 8, 2016

Asmaa Ibnouzahir partage un récit autobiographique racontant des défis qu'elle a relevés en tant que jeune immigrante musulmane d'origine marocaine arrivée au Québec en 1994. Elle présente également une analyse éclairante sur des questions qui reviennent souvent dans les médias québécois au sujet de l'islam, des femmes et de la société: les musulmans-es «modérés», les crimes «d'honneur», le foulard, le féminisme islamique et bien d'autres. Engagée dans les débats sociopolitiques qui ont traversé le Québec au cours de la dernière décennie, sur la religion, l'immigration et les valeurs québécoises, Asmaa Ibnouzahir livre un témoignage essentiel qui donne un

accès sans précédent aux coulisses de ces débats.

Asmaa Ibnouzahir shared an autobiography recounting the challenges she faced as a young Muslim Moroccan immigrant arriving in Quebec in 1994, as well as an illuminating analysis on issues that come up in the media about Islam, women and society: "moderate" Muslims, "honor" killings, headscarves, Islamic feminism, etc. Engaged in the Quebec sociopolitical debates related to these issues over the last decade, Asmaa Ibnouzahir offered an important testimony that gives unprecedented access to the corridors of these debates.

Co-Sponsors: Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies and the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies



## Joint CFR / CWSE at OISE Feminist Pedagogy Working Group

What is feminist pedagogy? How does feminist pedagogy inform our teaching philosophies? How can we navigate situations that arise in the classroom (or beyond) through intersectional feminist frameworks?

The Feminist Pedagogy Working Group is a space to discuss what "feminist pedagogy" means for us today, drawing from lenses of trans-inclusive intersectional feminisms. Each meeting begins with an informal presentation by that month's "host" on a topic relevant to contemporary feminist pedagogy. This is followed by an extended group discussion in which we engage with ideas, themes, and problems in a way that is grounded in situations we have encountered as TAs, sessionals, community organizers, facilitators, and professors. Topics explored so far include: "holding space" in the feminist classroom; navigating the use of technology and social media with students; queer and crip pedagogies; and mental health. This group is

aligned with a “safer spaces” mandate. It is a trans-inclusive, anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-homophobic, space in which those taking part will be expected to be respectful and cognizant of the language that they use. While the theme is loosely “feminist,” all genders and orientations are welcome.

The Feminist Pedagogy Working Group is a collaboration between the Centre for Feminist Research at York and the Centre for Women’s Studies in Education at OISE. Any questions, comments, or queries can be directed to Lauren Fournier, PhD candidate in the Department of English at York University: [lgfourni@yorku.ca](mailto:lgfourni@yorku.ca).

While Lauren organizes the group meetings, the group aims to have a new person in the “leader/facilitator” role every month in an experimental pedagogical structure.

**DELEUZE & GUATTARI,  
FEMINISM AND QUEER THEORY:  
INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS**  
November 10, 2015 & February 25, 2016

Dr. reese simpkins  
2014-15 CFR Visiting Scholar in Sexuality Studies

In this introductory workshop, we discussed the basics of Deleuzo-Guattarian theory in an accessible manner, and assess their potential for feminism and queer theory.

We focused on Deleuze and Guattari’s work *A Thousand Plateaus*, including their discussion of rhizome and becoming. We also covered topics of embodiment and affect, as well as the political implications of Deleuzo-Guattarian based frameworks.

Co-Sponsor: Sexuality Studies



**SCHOLARSHIP & CULTURAL PRODUCTION  
A WORKSHOP ON THE INTERSECTION OF  
ACADEMIC RESEARCH  
AND DOCUMENTARY FILM PRACTICES**  
Public Workshop and Screening  
December 15, 2016

Individual Graduate Workshops  
March 17, March 24, 2016

Dr. Lilia Topouzova, 2014-15 CFR Visiting Scholar

This interdisciplinary workshop examined the interactions between documentary filmmaking and scholarly inquiry. Participants scrutinized the ways in which scholarship and film seek to foster an understanding of current political events and historical processes.

The public workshop comprised brief pre-circulated readings and the subsequent screening of selected film sections. Private workshops were held with individual researchers to support the development of their projects.

Dr. Lilia Topouzova is a historian and an award-winning documentary filmmaker, whose interdisciplinary practice addresses the representation of trauma and forms of remembrances across different historical and contemporary settings. She is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS) at Concordia University. Dr. Topouzova is currently in pre-production of her third film, “*Anaana: My Mother*,” supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Art Council.



**Feedback from participant:** I was given the opportunity to meet with Lilia individually to discuss my project and brainstorm creative ways of bringing my academic work to life through the art of documentary. This individualized workshop not only helped me materialize my own work but was a generous sharing of time and information from an experienced, veteran academic and documentary filmmaker.

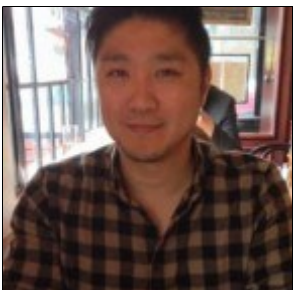
# VISITING SCHOLARS



**Dr. Alexa DeGagne** was the Visiting Scholar in Sexuality Studies in 2015-16. She is an Assistant Professor in Women's and Gender Studies at Athabasca University. Dr. DeGagne completed the doctoral program in the Department of Political Science at the University of

Alberta in June 2015. Her research, teaching and community engagement are focused on gender-based and sexuality-based social justice movements and activism in Canada and the United States.

Specifically, her work has examined the relationship between feminist movements and fatherhood movements in the context of American welfare programs, and the relationship between LGB, trans and queer movements, and social conservative forces in the context of same-sex marriage policies, in both cases asking how the movements co-constitute, antagonize and assimilate to each other. Her current and future research agenda continues this work by focusing on the relationship between LGB, trans and queer social movement organizations, and police organizations in Canada. She has published works on LGB, trans and queer political organizing in Canada, specifically on the following topics: LGB, trans and queer politics in Alberta; homonationalism and the Canadian criminal justice system; LGB, trans and queer refugees in the Canadian refugee system; and the uses of anger as a tool in Canadian LGB, trans and queer activism. Dr. DeGagne's political activism is based in her Edmonton queer community where she has worked with several social justice projects as a community organizer and agitator, public educator, columnist, radio producer and host, and queer arts festival co-chair.



**Dr. Dai Kojima** was the 2015-16 Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar at the Centre for Feminist Research. He received his PhD from the University of British Columbia in February 2015, specializing in the areas of Migration and Diaspora Studies, Queer Studies and Critical Media Studies. His ethnographic

doctoral research examined the cultural politics of mobility in queer Asian diasporas in Canada. At UBC, he was a co-founder of the Global Queer Research Group at Liu Institute for Global Issues and taught at the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice. His current postdoctoral project explores the labours of "affinity" among queer Japanese immigrants and migrant workers in

Canada. He is currently preparing a book manuscript entitled "*Wabi-Sabi Diaspora: The Traveling Sentiments and Queer Worldings of Japanese Migration Politics*." His most recent published work appears in *Anthropologica*, and *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture*.



**Dr. Elisabeth Mercier** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Feminist Research at York University and the Institut de recherches et d'études féministes at UQAM. She holds a Ph.D. in

Communication Studies from the University of Montreal. Her dissertation offered a critical analysis of the feminist, media, and public discourses about girl's 'hypersexualization' and those regarding the 'Islamic' practice of veiling. Her current research project examines the comments and controversies raised by the *SlutWalk* in the mainstream media and within the feminist blogosphere. Her work has been published in *Composite*, *Nouvelles Questions Féministes*, and *Québec Studies*.



**Renuka Biharie** holds an MPhil. in Public Administration from Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS). Renuka is currently the Coordinator for the Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) of the Faculty

of Social Science since March 2014, a member of the Board of the IWGDS since October 2010, and is teaching "Gender and International Relations" at the University. Renuka has organized several panel discussions, conferences and workshops together with NGOs and international organizations regarding domestic violence (gender based violence), women and politics, women and sustainable Development, and LGTB platforms. In March 2015, IWGDS offered for the first time an undergraduate gender course for government gender focal points, university students, private sector and NGOs with lecturers from Suriname and York University. Renuka also facilitates the activities between the Anton de Kom University and York University, and is currently involved in the Canada/ Inter- Guiana project for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies together with the Gender Studies Unit of the University of Guyana, Institute for Gender and Development Studies of the University of West Indies, York University, University of Toronto and Ryerson University for setting up blended courses in Women and Gender Studies.

# MARY McEWAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Named in honour of Dr. Mary McEwan, a feminist psychologist, this annual award is awarded to one PhD dissertation per academic year produced at York University in the area of feminist scholarship. An Awards Committee of faculty affiliated with the Centre selects the winners.

## 2012-13 Award Winner: Dr. reese simpkins



**reese simpkins** completed his PhD in Political Science at York in 2012. His work takes place at the interstices of Transgender Studies, Posthumanism, and Feminist and Political Theory. His work on the links between trans\* and feminism has been published in

*Trans/Forming Feminism* (Krista Scott-Dixon, ed., 2006) and *Transgender Studies Quarterly*. He has chapters forthcoming for the Time volume of the *MacMillan Interdisciplinary Handbook on Gender* (Karin Sellberg, vol. ed.) and *Deleuze and Transgender Studies* (Vernon Cisney, ed.).

His dissertation draws on the new materialist turn in feminist theory to theorize trans as movement, in general, and a becoming movement of “matter-energy-flow,” in particular. Wary of normative conceptualizations that understand trans only in terms of identity, identification, and subjectivity, the text is careful to push trans beyond these normative conceptualizations, while not divorcing completely from the lives and experiences of trans people. Using a Deleuzo-Guattarian framework, the text argues that trans has relevance beyond traditional considerations of sex and gender; consequently, the text extends trans into fundamental conceptualizations of materiality and acknowledges matter’s dynamic properties. The creation of a dimension of dynamic, transed materiality prompts a (re)consideration of embodiment, affect, and assemblage. As such, *Making Trans Multiple* intervenes in key debates regarding the production of subjectivity and identity, the nature of desire and its link to affect, and the resonances between Transgender Studies and intersectional, feminist theories.

## 2013-14 Award Winner: Dr. Julie Dowsett



Before completing her Ph.D. in Political Science at York in 2014, **Julie E.**

**Dowsett** completed her B.A. (Honours Political Science and Women’s Studies) at the University of Western Ontario, and her M.A. (Political Science) at York.

Her writing has been published in

*Affinities*, *Socialist Studies*, and the *Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World*, and she has an article forthcoming in *Atlantis*. Julie’s research concerns the relationship between gender, politics, marketing, and consumerism. She has been an invited speaker at Loyola College in Chennai, India and New York University. Her current primary writing project is revising her doctoral dissertation into a book manuscript entitled *Feminism for Sale: Marx, Freud, and Commodified “Empowerment.”*

Her dissertation theorizes the underlying politics of “commodity feminism,” defined as the reduction of feminist politics to a commodity that can be bought and sold on the market. It explores both the origins of commodity feminism in the 1920s, when the image of American suffragettes was used to sell cigarettes to rebellious “modern” women, and the rapid international expansion of commodity feminist marketing in the twenty-first century. The politics underlying commodity feminism are both liberal and conservative: a liberal feminist politics of independence and self-determination is endorsed alongside the conservative (and Freudian) idea that the democratic masses are a problem in need of control. The overarching argument of the dissertation is that commodity feminism resolves the feminism/femininity tension by revaluing feminized commodities and the women who use them, while at the same time transforming commodities into a form of social control. By foregrounding the role played by commodities and consumption in this new form of feminism, *Feminism for Sale* theorizes its origins, explores its role as a contemporary “civilizing” discourse, and interrogates questions of agency, social control, and corporate behaviour in contemporary democracy.

# Completed research projects: a retrospective

## Marc Stein, US Perspectives on Canadian Sexual Politics: An Historical Case Study project

Professor **Marc Stein**, a CFR Faculty Associate, has recently completed his SSHRC Insight project *US Perspectives on Canadian Sexual Politics: An Historical Case Study*. Dr. Stein and his research team have created an online archive and exhibit titled “U.S. Homophile Internationalism: Archive and Exhibit” for OutHistory.org. Focusing on the 1950s and 1960s, it features annotated bibliographies, digitized materials, and introductory essays on U.S. homophile magazines with references to, representations of, and contributions from other parts of the world (including Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Russia/Eastern Europe/Soviet Union). (<http://www.outhistory.org/exhibits/show/us-homophile>)

The research team presented its work on a plenary panel at the Gay American History @ 40 conference in New York City in May 2016. *The Journal of Homosexuality* has accepted a proposal to devote a special issue to the project; articles by research team members will be featured, with planned publication in 2017. The team will be presenting its work on a panel at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities in New York in June 2017. Dr. Stein’s research team consists of PhD students Shlomo Gleibman (Humanities); Tamara Lang, Marva Milo, Healy Thompson (Gender, Feminist, and Women’s Studies), Darya Serykh (Social and Political Thought), and Carly Simpson (History).

---

## Nancy Nicol, Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights project



CFR Research Associate Professor **Nancy Nicol** has recently completed her SSHRC CURA project Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights. The project has 32 partners based in Canada, India, the English-speaking Caribbean, Botswana, Kenya and Uganda. Cited as an example of best practice in international work on SOGI issues, Envisioning has produced a large number of outcomes. ([www.envisioninglgbt.com](http://www.envisioninglgbt.com))

Working with Canadian partners, Envisioning authored three reports and other resources on LGBT asylum in Canada.

*Envisioning LGBT Refugee Rights in Canada: Is Canada a Safe*

*Haven?* (2015) offers recommendations for systemic change in policy and services affecting LGBT asylum seekers.

Working with Global South partners, Envisioning employed participatory documentary and has produced large number of videos, including, *Telling Our Stories*, a collection of 36 portraits, and four documentary films, highlighted below.

*Sangini* (2016), a shelter for lesbian, bisexual and trans-identified people in Delhi, tells the stories of people who sought sanctuary. Fleeing violence and family pressure to marry, a young woman, a trans man, and a lesbian couple recount their struggle to assert their civil rights. N. Nicol (director)

*And Still We Rise* (2015) is a stirring story of resistance against the Anti Homosexuality Act in Uganda. The documentary gives an inside look at work lead by Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law, a coalition of over 50 groups; linking this issue to broader human rights and civil liberties. R. Lusimbo and N. Nicol (directors). ([www.andstillwerise.ca](http://www.andstillwerise.ca))

*No Easy Walk to Freedom* (2014) examines the struggle to strike down section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Told through the voices of lawyers, activists and community leaders, the film documents the growth of queer organizing in India in the context of this historic battle to overturn a colonial-era law. N. Nicol (director) ([www.noeasywalktofreedom.com](http://www.noeasywalktofreedom.com))

*The Time Has Come* (2013) filmed in seven countries by Envisioning participatory videographers, the film documents the historic process with regard to the SOGI resolution at the UN in 2013. K. Vance and J. Fisher (directors). (<http://vimeo.com/67796115>)

The films have premiered at multiple film festivals and conferences: Being Human, London, and Glasgow, UK; KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, Mumbai, India; Pan Africa ILGA, Johannesburg, South Africa; Chennai International Queer Film Festival, Chennai, India; Painting the Spectrum, Guyana; OUT Film Festival, Nairobi, Kenya; and Inside Out: Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Toronto, Canada; and Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Calgary, Canada.

Forthcoming is an Envisioning anthology that brings together academic and community-based contributions from all regions of the study. The chapters cover significant developments with regard to SOGI issues internationally. Publisher: School of Advanced Study, University of London.