

# CENTRE FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH 2012-2013 NEWSLETTER

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am writing you as I begin the last year of my directorship. I would like to begin by extending a warm and emphatic welcome to Vivian Lee to CFR. Vivian joined CFR in the beginning of November as the CFR coordinator.

2012/13 was an extremely exciting and productive year at CFR. In addition to the many research projects, lectures, research seminars, workshops and symposia that took place at the Centre, CFR applied for a renewal of its charter. As so much has happened in this past year, I will begin by outlining the rechartering process, and then go on to report on the Centre's activities in the past year. As we have a busy year ahead of us, I will also share some of the planned activities for this year as well.

### **Rechartering:**

As you all know, our application for a new charter was successful, and we have been re-charted for five years until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018. It was clear throughout the review process that CFR is seen as an international and national leader in feminist research, due, in the assessor's evaluation, to the exceptional research activities carried out by the centre's associates.

As part of the application for rechartering, CFR underwent a review by external reviewers. Here are the key highlights from the external reviewers report:

- (1) CFR's success in research intensification. The reviewers reported that "research productivity has increased across the spectrum of activities from which externally-funded research projects can succeed: beginning with the development of ideas within a strong collaborative community, to identifying resources and personnel, to drafting applications and managing research budgets when awarded";
- (2) The importance of the Centre for "enabling and sustaining" its Associates' research activities. The reviewers reported that "CFR's most valuable contribution to research lies in the high level and much recognized support it gives to associated faculty and students within the Centre";
- (3) The importance of the Centre for "enabling and sustaining" graduate students;
- (4) CFR's success at facilitating emerging and key areas of feminist scholarship. The reviewers noted that "CFR has opened doors to new areas of scholarly inquiry, academic and community experience, research clusters and external research funding". In particular, the reviewers noted that the Centre's facilitation of cutting-edge research in critical race studies, indigenous research practices, sexuality studies, transgender communities, and the research potential of artistic production" as especially productive;
- (5) Finally, the reviewers noted that CFR's success is due to the exemplary contributions the Centre receives from its Associates, whom they noted "its list of Research and Faculty Associates reads like a Canadian 'Who's Who' of critical theorists".

Based on the reviewer's report and its internal evaluation, the VPRIO recommended a new charter; the Senate voted in support of rechartering CFR. The following are some changes I would like to highlight:

- (1) Reflecting the policy of the Vice President of Research and Innovations for ORUs, a lead faculty has been specified. For CFR, the lead faculty is the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Its role is to support the development of CFR, supplying a decanal representative to serve as Vice-Chair of CFR's Board, and facilitate the selection and approval of its Directors. Further, the role of the lead Faculty is to integrate CFR objectives into its strategic research planning and to champion the development of CFR as a cornerstone of interdisciplinary research activity. Three faculties have agreed to the role of participatory Faculties; Faculties of Environmental Studies, Fine Arts and Graduate Studies. Their role is to promote the development of CFR by providing a representative to its Board, and by contributing to discussions of how to enable CFR's research success;
- (2) Reflecting the policy of the Vice President of Research and Innovation for ORUs, there is a new Board for the Centre. The Board for CFR has responsibility for oversight and regular review of the progress of the Centre, it approves the appointment of the Director, champions CFR with internal and external stakeholders, and serves as a resource for the Director in assisting CFR to achieve its objectives. The Board is composed of the VPRI (or designate) as the Chair, Dean, Faculty of

Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (or designate), as Vice-Chair, Graduate Program Director (rotating amongst programs of key importance to CFR community) (non-voting), Senior Development Officer, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (non-voting), Decanal representatives from Participating Faculties (1 per Faculty). Notably, the Board is not intended to replace or take over the functions of the Executive;

- (3) The Charter includes ambitious targets of administering at least \$2.5 million of new, additional external research funding by the end of this five year period, with recognition of the effort required to develop applications. In addition to administering smaller conference grants and individual PI grants, the Centre is expected to support applications for at least two larger collaborative grants during this period (for example a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant or Partnership Grant). At least one such application should be submitted by 2015.

### Report of Activities in the Past Year:

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 these grants. Congratulations to Haideh Moghissi on receiving a SSHRC Connections Grant for her conference “Women’s Quests for Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Contestations, Complexities, Contradiction”. Prof. Moghissi 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 promotion of LGBT rights in the global south. Indeed the Centre’s research activities expanded on the excellent quality and innovativeness of feminist research at York University. More details is [www.yorku.ca/cfr](http://www.yorku.ca/cfr).

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 Vivian Lee.

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. Particularly rewarding was our work with CFR Associates to organize launches for their newly

published books/creative work. The Centre organized launches for five 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.

CFR continues to be a destination for international scholars. During the past year we hosted W.S. Kottoswari, Jared Sexton, Sevasti Trubeta. We also hosted or supported a number of public lectures by international and national scholars, conferences and symposia. Notably, most of these events were organized in collaboration with an Associate, a research cluster or research project. Public lectures included those by Catherine Driscoll, Carla Freeman, Sue Willianson, Jared Sexton, Sevasti Trubeta, Selma James, Salimah Valiani, Gary Kinsmen, Gloria Wekker and Jacqui Alexander. In addition, CFR was involved in organizing a number of academic conferences, including “Women’s Quest for Rights in the Middle East and North Africa” and “Sex Talk”. We also cosponsored a conference in Oujda, Morocco “Reality and the Prospects of Gender Equality after the Arab Spring”. As well, CFR was involved in two academic conferences for graduate students—“Dynamic Resistances” and “New Frontiers”.

The Centre provided a number of opportunities for the training and mentoring of graduate students. These opportunities range from membership on the CFR Executive, graduate assistantships, employment in research projects housed at CFR, workshops with international scholars, and opportunities to present their work. When we had the opportunity to invite an international or national scholar, we organized a workshop specifically to provide graduate students with an opportunity to meet with these scholars in a small group setting. 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. In 2012-13, the number of departments that allocate a graduate student to CFR has increased to six.

Our website has continued is an important place for sharing information. The website has posts of 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. It is not only informative, but also a source of pride for staff and graduate students who contributed to 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 beyond. We are pleased to report that we have built our recipient list to 1057 people. 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](mailto:cfr@yorku.ca).

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 upcoming conference on Gender Equity. We were involved with the South Asian's Women's Collective, which organized the conference "Intersections of Identity". We also collaborated with a community group that organized "The Ghadar Movement: A Living History". CFR supported Andil Gosine in organizing an art exhibit entitled "Cutlass" at Only-oneGallery. 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 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.

### 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 able provides post-award support. If you are interested in this support, please contact me at [edua@yorku.ca](mailto: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 project that employs social media through developing a feminist blog on which we post bi-monthly short articles on feminist issues, with a number of other components for social networking. We are launching this blog in January. You will have been sent an email informing you of the project, and asking for your interest in writing for it. I encourage all of you to consider writing a short blog. It is a wonderful way to get your research into the public domain – and inform public debates. If you are interested in writing a short blog, please contact Vivian Lee.

And finally, but not least, CFR will continue to collaborate with our Associates to invite 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.

I would like to conclude my remarks with thanking all of the people whose hard work made of the activities at the Centre possible. An emphatic "thanks!" to Jessica Balmer,

the CFR Coordinator, whose commitment and expertise enriched CFR. As many of you are aware, Jessica was offered another position, and left CFR in April 2013. Since then, three people have worked as interim coordinators, Meghan Mills, Sonia D'Angelo and Afroze Shaheen. I would like to extend a special thanks to Meghan, Sonia and Afroze, as they did an extraordinary job in filling in for what is, to put it mildly, a demanding position! Also a warm thanks to our graduate student assistants in 2012/12. Millicent Asiedu, Sara Downing, Alison Hill, S.K. Hussan, Florence Li, Carmen Lucaciu, Meghan Mills, Michelle O'Donoghue, Merrick Pilling and Shakila Yasmin. And finally, I would like to thank the executive members of CFR, Uzo Anucha, Sarah Barrett, Nael Bhanji, Honor Ford Smith, Maryasn Khan, Jennifer Hyndman, Ali Kazami, Kamala Kempadoo, Sonia Lawrence, Gertrude Mianda, for their invaluable advice and commitment to CFR.

As this will be my last annual newsletter, I would like to end by thanking the CFR community for the opportunity to work with all of you. I have truly enjoyed and valued my time at the Centre as it has given me a rare opportunity to work with such an innovative, committed and superb group of scholars. I look forward to working with you as an Associate member of the Centre. I wish you all a healthy and rewarding academic year 2012/13.

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

## 2013-2014 EVENTS

**September 25, 2013, 12:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m.**  
**Osgoode Hall Law School**

**The Mirage of Merit: Reconstituting the Ideal Academic - A lecture by Margaret Thornton**

The lecture discussed the concepts of merit and the "ideal academic". Thornton argued that as higher education is transformed by the new "knowledge economy", the characteristics of the ideal academic have shifted to favour the masculinised figure of the "technopreneur".

**October 17, 2013, 12:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m.**  
**Kaneff Tower 626**

**Zombies, Gender and World-Ecology - A lecture by Kerstin Oloff**

Oloff's lecture reflected on how the figure of the zombie reflected the convergence of racial, class, gender and environmental violence during periods of ecological revolutions in recent history. Oloff is an Assistant Professor at Durham University.

**October 23, 2013, 12:45 p.m.—2:15 p.m.**  
**Crossroads Gallery, FES Building**

**Reconstruction Revisited - Fear of Black Men and Protecting White Womanhood**

This panel addressed the recent controversies in Leamington, Ontario regarding comments and position taken by the Mayor and other residents about Jamaican and Caribbean migrant men sexually harassing other Leamington residents.

**November 21, 2013, 12:30 p.m.**  
**Art Gallery of York University**

**Ohrni; A preview of Andil Gosine's Wardrobes and  
Discussion of "Coolie Women" by Gaiutra Bahadur**

The event featured a dialogue on labour, sex and home between Andil Gosine and Gaiutra Bahadur, author of the acclaimed new book "Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture".

**November 28, 2013, 3:00-5:00p.m.**  
**Kaneff Tower 519**

**Problematizing International Discourses on Displacement and Sexual Violence in Central Africa -  
A lecture by Patricia Daley**

This talk highlighted Daley's work on the intersection between global geo-politics, militarism, masculinities, genocidal violence, humanitarianism and forced migration in East and Central Africa. Daley is a lecturer in Human Geography at University of Oxford. She is also an Official Fellow and Geography Tutor at Jesus College, Oxford.

**Other upcoming events:**

Please continue to visit the CFR website for information on upcoming events.

## CFR VISITING SCHOLARS

CFR was pleased to welcome the following visiting scholars to the Centre for the Fall 2013:



### 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, Postgraduate Dept. of English; and Research Guide at the Research Centre for Comparative Studies, Postgraduate Dept. of English at Mercy College, Palakkad, Kerala. While at York, Dr. Kottiswari worked on a project entitled *Rethinking Marginalized Subjectivity and the Maternal – A Cross Cultural Study of Indian Dalit and Native Canadian Autobiographies*. The project analyzed the literary works of selected Indian Dalit and Native Canadian women writers. Dr. Kottiswari looked to the works to understand the politics of subjectivity in the complicated matrix of culture and dominant ideologies. The study also underscored marginalized women's negotiations with mainstream hegemonic culture.



### Dr. Jared Sexton

Professor Jared Sexton, a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturing Chair, visited 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 in the 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 such as *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 taught 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*.



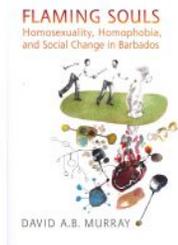
### Dr. Sevasti Trubeta

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 worked 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 related social issues (with a regional focus on Southeastern Europe) and her present research in global social inequality in the application of reproductive technologies, with a special focus on fertility (sperm donation, in vitro fertilization). This multi-prong approach engages with existing themes in the disciplines of social history of medicine, sociology of social inequity and sociology of the body and human reproduction.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012-2013 EVENTS

### Book launch for David Murray's *Flaming Souls: Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Social Change in Barbados*

September 6, 2012



Faculty, students, and supporters joined David Murray to celebrate the release of his new book, *Flaming Souls*, which looks at public discourses focusing on homosexuality and the everyday lives of gay men and 'queens' in contemporary Barbados. Panelists Naisargi Dave (University of Toronto) and Amar Wahab (York) enlivened the evening with expert commentary and insightful questions. The book was well-received and the event was followed by a celebratory dinner.

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

September 14-15, 2012



The CFR co-sponsored a York University graduate program conference exploring the ways in which resistance as a term and concept are employed in feminist thinking and activism. Through understanding the history and context of

"resistance", graduate students in Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies explored resistance and considered collectively what resistance has meant in the past and its potential permutations in the future.

### Film Screening of *Sathima's Windsong*

September 20, 2012



CFR co-sponsored the screening of Dr. Danial Yon's *Sathima's Windsong*. The film was followed by an interdisciplinary discussion panel featuring Richard Fung (OCAD University), D. Alissa Trotz (University of Toronto), and Liam Rodrigues (Alternative educator and independent scholar). *Salthima's Windsong* celebrates the life and music of South African jazz singer Sathima Bea Benjamin, a woman and musician of perseverance.

### Plastic Visibility, Visible Plasticity: On the Sexualization of Girlhood— Lecture by Catherine Driscoll

October 17, 2012

Guest lecturer Catherine Driscoll joined the York community to discuss the emergence of modern girlhood mapped onto changing ideas about sex. This engaging talk explored



current public debates on the ideas of girl sexuality and its developmental periodization.

### CFR Meet and Greet & Council Meeting

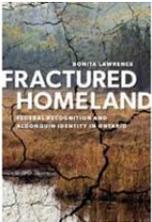
October 18 2012

Existing CFR Associates and new faculty gathered on October 18, 2012, to learn about and discuss CFR over light refreshments. The event allowed the sharing of research interests and the fostering of new connections. The annual Council Meeting was held following the Meet & Greet.

### Book launch for Bonita Lawrence's *Fractured Homeland*

October 24, 2012

CFR joined the Aboriginal Student Centre to launch Lawrence's new work *Fractured Homeland*. The book discusses the ongoing struggles of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan to reassert jurisdiction over traditional lands through comprehensive land claims. Lawrence's work reveals how federally unrecognized Algonquins nurtured and sustained a distinct sense of identity, despite centuries of disruption by settlers and the state.



### Phone Clones: Authenticity Work in the Transnational Service Economy– Lecture and Graduate Seminar with Carla Freeman

October 25 & 26, 2012



York welcomed guest lecturer Carla Freeman to speak about authenticity work in the transnational service economy and celebrate her upcoming book on the same topic. Dr. Freeman shared her expertise in cultural and political economy of globalization as well as feminist anthropology.

### Developments in Collective Workplace Bargaining and Gender Equality: Evidence from the Bargaining Table- Lecture by Sue Williamson

October 30, 2012



Sue Williamson presented on "equality bargaining" using her research of six case studies of collective bargaining in which parties bargained for a range of family provisions, in particular paid parental leave. This collaborative event brought together the intimate themes of labour, political economy, and feminism.

## Rum and Roti Lime

November 10, 2012



Reel Asian previewed Andil Gosine's *Wardrobes*—art-fashion project in support of the North American premiere of film maker Richard Fung's *Dal Puri Diaspora*. In his film, Fung introduces Canadian audiences to Gosine's work. As well, filmgoers explored the art-fashion project at a special "Lime" (Trini slang for "hangout") event after *Dal Puri Diaspora*'s North American premiere. *Wardrobes* began life as a series of art objects Gosine created and premiered at the New York Institute of Fashion, and later developed into a series of art performances and a play that elaborate each object's story.

## Racism in Academia Seminar

November 21, 2012



The seminar focused on the challenges of identifying and naming multiple forms of racism experienced in the university settings. Presenters Carl James, Patricia Perkins, Mehdi Rizvi, Shiva Sadeghi, and Jennisha Wilson drew on personal experiences and scholarship to question and highlight how various racialized actors and academic institutions contribute to the normalization of racism and racialization.

## Social Inequality in Eugenics and New Reproductive Technologies (IVF): Beyond the Question of Continuity— Lecture by Sevasti Trubeta

November 21, 2012

Visiting CFR scholar Dr. Sevasti explored the socio-historical conditions that facilitated the emergence and flourishing of eugenics. She argued that eugenics often flourished within the welfare state model where popular scientific support was garnered based on the supposed priority of the "common good" at the expense of individual rights. Also, Dr. Trubeta discussed the ways in which new genetic technologies operate in a society where individualism shapes social relations in midst of growing commercialization of social and health services.

## "Intersections of Identity", by the South Asian Women's Action Collective

November 21, 2012

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) hosted a forum "Intersections of Identity" to highlight the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Presented by the South Asian Women's Action Collective, the event explored the impact of violence against South Asian women in Scarborough, Ontario and brought together women of all ages from the Scarborough region to discuss ways to mobilize within an anti-racist, anti-Islamophobic, and anti-oppressive framework.

## North American Speaking Tour and Book Launch for Selma James's *Sex, Race and Class: The Perspective of Winning*

November 26 & 27, 2012

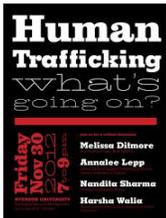
The founder of the International Wages for Housework Campaign and the author of the women's movement classic "the Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community, and Sex, Race, and Class—the Perspective of Winning", James spoke about the meanings of sex, race, and class, and movements for change while centering the needs of women and children. She also presented a selection of her writings from 1952 to 2011. The series of events included a public lecture a graduate student seminar at York University.



## Critical Perspectives on Canadian Anti-Trafficking Policy

November 30-December 2, 2012

This workshop at Ryerson University was a forum for sex workers, academics, migrant labourers, and service providers to advance critical and strategic dialogues and research about the realities of human trafficking in Canada. Presenters came from York University, University of Toronto, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Stella Montreal, Operation Snatch, Justitia for Migrant Workers, No One Is Illegal, Oxford University, Queen's University, University of Hawaii, Global Alliance Against Trafficking Women, Anticolonial Migrant Justice and Sex Workers project.



## Unbearable Blackness— Lecture by Jared Sexton

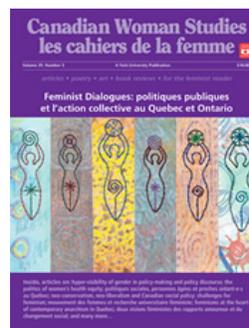
December 5 & 10, 2012

Visiting scholar from University of California, Irvine, Sexton discussed the psychic life of black freedom struggle in the political culture and cultural politics of the post-emancipation United States. The myriad of figures of racial blackness across a wide spectrum of activities— from claims to emergent mixed race identities to calls for progressive multi-racial coalition to "pro-life" announcements of the Christian right—raise questions about the material-symbolic persistence of modern slavery in/as the existing discourse of terror. This persistence involves a fundamental misrecognition of the political ontology enabling modern slavery and requires a more thorough analysis of structural conditions and a deeper historical sense commensurate with the *longue durée*.

## Launch for Feminist Dialogues

December 13, 2012

Friends and supporters gathered to celebrate the launch of the Canadian Women Studies special issue "Feminist Dialogues: Politiques and publiques et l'action collective au Quebec et Ontario". In a "feminist circle", editors Susan Braedley, Jacinthe Michaud, and Leah Vosko spoke about the energy and stimulation for and from the dialogues across the languages, academic disciplines, and culture. This became the common ground for the issue. The editors



also discussed the structure of this special issue, emphasizing that the articles mirror the challenging relationship between feminism and the state, the use of empirical research to present feminist perspectives on three social policy areas, the role of political activism within women's movements, and the synergies and tensions within the political movements.

### **Nursing Labour Process and the Demand for Temporary Foreign Nurses in North America—by Salimah Valiani**

February 5, 2013

Salimah Valiani, an economist and policy analyst and member of the Ontario Nurses' Association, presented "Nursing Labour Process, and the Demand for Temporary Foreign Nurses in North America" as part of the Dispatches from the Global Labour Movement Winter 2013 Speaker Series. Valiani's expertise as an economist and policy analyst contributed immensely to her lecture.

### **Book Launch for Eva Karpinski's Borrowed Tongues: Life Writing, Migration and Translation**

February 14, 2013

Faculty, students, friends, and supporters joined Karpinski to celebrate the launch of her book *Borrowed Tongues*. Dr. Karpinski teaches feminist theory and methodology as well as life-writing. She combines interest in auto-biography studies with translation studies, poststructuralist and anti-racist the-

ories, trauma, and transnational studies. Her new book is the first consistent attempt to apply the theoretical framework of translation studies in the analysis of self-representation in life writing by women in transnational, diasporic, and immigrant communities. It focuses on linguistic and philosophical dimensions of translation, showing how the dominant language serves to articulate and reinforce social, cultural, political, and gender hierarchies. Drawing on feminist, poststructuralist, and postcolonial scholarship, the study examines Canadian and American examples of traditional autobiography, autoethnography and experimental narrative.

### **New Frontiers, Graduate History Conference**

February 21-23, 2013

For two days, New Frontiers celebrated the graduate history programme's 17th annual conference. It was a great opportunity for students to share their work in a cordial environment and to gain professional experience in conference presentation.



There were papers from different national, regional, thematic, and methodological backgrounds spanning history and theory, public memory, law, the state, gender, sexuality, the body, science, medicine, and technology.

## **Queering Heterosexism in the Social Form of Legal and State Formation: National Security and Homonationalism— Lecture by Gary Kinsman**

February 25, 2013

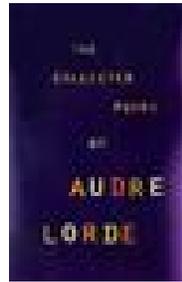
As part of the Socio-Legal Studies 2012-13 Speaker Series. Gary Kinsman, a long-time queer liberation, anti-poverty, and anti-capitalist activist, critically analyzed the heterosexist social form of legal and state formation in the Canadian context through examinations of the national security campaigns against queers, the 1969 criminal law reform, the same-sex marriage debates, and the current organizing by queer Palestine solidarity activists. Arguing that we need to move beyond formal legal equality and rights that lead to the integration within existing legal and state formation, Kinsman believed we need to challenge the social form of law and state formation itself—including its heterosexist nature—to open up more transformative possibilities.

## **Contemporary Urgencies of Audre Lorde's Legacy**

March 7-21, 2013

For two weeks Community Arts Practice, Faculty of Environment Studies, York University in association with Women and Gender Studies and University of Toronto presented the Contemporary Urgencies of Audre Lorde Legacy – a series of events to

celebrate Lorde. They included lectures, exhibitions, film screening followed by a panel discussion and a collective presentation of a poetry marathon recitation, oil paintings and jazz performances. Audre Lorde embodies a stunning example of



what it means to be a political artist and an engaged public intellectual rigorous. These events were organized as an active remembering of her struggles in a variety of languages and genres. The series aimed to put her words in

the public memory by engendering radical dialogues about contemporary cultural, political and environmental challenges two decades after her death in the Caribbean.

## **Women's Quest for Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Contestations, Complexities, Contradiction**

April 5 & 6, 2013

This two-day conference was a forum for scholars and activists to analyze the significance of the Arab spring for women. What has come to be known as the Arab Spring marked a remarkable turning point in the modern history of the Middle East and North America (MENA) and signaled, to many, the strength of democracy and social justice. However, it also pointed to signs of challenges ahead for women in MENA. In particular, the roles of Islamists in the movement for democracy and social justice raise the vital question: what is on the immediate horizon for women and rights activists? Leading international schol-

Al Adiat Association, Arab Families Working as well as an independent scholars gathered to participate in dynamic panels.

## The Ghadar Movement: A Living History

April 12-13, 2013

York University hosted "The Ghadar Movement" - a conference to honor and remember the movement history and its contemporary relevance to the revolutionary struggles of people in the Indian subcontinent. Like revolutionary movements in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Black Liberation movements in North America, the Ghadar Movement opposed imperialist powers, colonialism, and strived to develop working class internationalism. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Ghadar Centenary Committee Toronto. The event featured keynote speakers such as Maia Ramnath, Harsha Walia, along with a film screening of *Rex vs. Singh*, theatrical performance *Santaap by Ghadar Centenary Committee Toronto*, and the art display *Komagata Maru*. The conference examined the Ghadar struggle as a journey from the 20th century, a "century of revolutions", to its role in laying the foundation for the events of the 21st century.

## Sex Talk @ York II

May 1, 2013

SexTalk @ York II, following the successful SexTalk @ York I, demonstrated the growing significance of sexuality studies in Canada. The event showcased a collection of



interdisciplinary scholarship from LGBT narratives of resistance to queer and transgender cultural production to psychoanalytic theory, to transnational and postcolonial studies. The event also provided a forum for graduate students and faculty members to network and share their research.

## An International Conference on the Reality and the Prospects of Gender Equality after "The Arab Spring"

Morocco, May 30-31, 2013

CFR collaborated with event sponsors to present this international conference. More than two hundred participants attended stimulating presentations on issues relating to "the Arab Spring" including topics like North African women's rights in the "Spring" aftermath, adolescent Tunisian girls' future, negotiating and claiming space, and issues specific to Morocco such as women's political participation, revolutionary ideals, public service television, and women in the judicial system.