Message From The Director

Prof. Enakshi Dua

As I have completed my in-term term as Director, and reflect on the past year it has been an incredible year of change and continuity. The spread of Covid-19 in March rapidly closed our campuses, shifting the move to remote work and teaching. Watching its devastating impact throughout the world, especially on black and racialised workers, migrant workers, those who work in factories, meat packing plants, warehouses, farms and retailing, on women and children and those with low incomes has brought to light the patterns of inequity in Canada and the world that CFR Associates work so hard to illustrate and challenge. The tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, Ejaz Choudry, Jason Collins, Eishia Hudson, D'Andre Campbell, Randy Cochrane in the past few months has led to a resurgence of political action demanding racial justice that will hopefully reshape the world. It has pointed to the patterns of anti-black racism in all aspects of our social world including education – from primary schools to universities. (Continued below)
All of these changes illustrate the vital importance of the work that is done at the Centre for Feminist Research by our Associates and how crucial it is that we continue such important research - from our research in Gender and Public Policy, Anti-Racism, Studies in Memorialization, Critical Migration Studies, Sexuality Studies, Childhood Studies, and Critical Pedagogy. This past year has been one in which we built on the strengths of the Centre for Feminist Research. Six of our Associates have been successful in SSHRC applications – joining the number of grants already housed at CFR. The new grants encompass a broad range of extremely timely and vital research - the ways in which Black francophone immigrants experience discrimination, the ways in which racialized federal politicians impact the political process, the experiences of East Asian female migrants to Canada, racism experienced by undocumented workers in Trinidad, creating resources for those working on disability and a transnational workshop on how memorialization is gendered and racialized. I am excited of the possibilities of this broad based and socially engaged research to challenging the conservative forces of our times.

Our events and workshops also engaged in critical knowledge production. We were undaunted by moving to remote venues – after March, the CFR organized 3 webinars offering scholars and students an opportunity to connect over feminist issues. A multidisciplinary organizing committee of faculty and graduate students organized an amazingly successful and ground-breaking Spotlight on Islamophobia series. Islamophobia has become disturbingly prevalent in Canada, the United States and Europe, and indeed has become a world-wide phenomena. The Centre for Feminist Research's Spotlight on Islamophobia, in an attempt to further understand one of the most entrenched form of racism, focusses on key aspects of the social forces that shape and reinforce contemporary practices of Islamophobia. We explored the ways in which Islamophobia is perpetuated by state regulatory policies, how it is imbricated with sexuality, and the ways in which anti-Blackness shapes experiences with Islamophobia. The series brought together international, Canadian and emerging scholars and community activists to offer a transnational focus on Islamophobia. This included a keynote lecture from Nisha Kapoor, talks by Jasmine Zine, Zulfikar Hirji, El Farouk Khaki, Naveen Minai, Qureshi Abdullah, Fatima Jackson-Best, Yugsra Khogali, and Hannah Ali. Also, we held the extremely popular talk by the Visiting Sexuality Studies Scholar, Naveen Minai, “The Desi Butch Archive: Refusals, Reworkings, Reimaginings“. We had the third in our annual Indigenous Women's Speakers Series Symposium – welcoming Joyce Green in a talk entitled “Four Themes from the Colonialism Symphony.” Our visiting scholars also presented their research allowing our Associates to build important networks.
I would like to thank all our members and speakers for their continuing contributions and dedication to – it is working with you that makes being a Director of the CFR a true pleasure. The opportunity to listen to your research is one that I have truly treasured as it allowed me to both learn from you, but also to be inspired by your passion for social justice. Particularly, I would like to thank those with whom I worked with this year on the organizing committee of the Spotlight Series: Zulfikar A. Hirji, Vidya Shah, Shirin Shahrokni, Meg Luxton, Allyson Mitchell, Dhouha Triki and Fardosa Abdi Warsame.

In a year of change, the CFR has also gone through a change in its coordinators. Julia Pyryeskina, who has been so vital to the work at centre has gone on to a new and exciting position. Tiffany Pollock began as the new coordinator in the beginning of March, just two weeks before we went remote. Her hard work and dedication has made not only for a smooth transition between coordinators, but also to the CFR moving all of its operations to remote. Without both Julia and Tiffany, none of CFR's accomplishments would have been possible!

I am also truly delighted to `turn' the directorship to Professor Elaine Coburn (International Studies, Glendon) who began the CFR directorship for a five-year term in July 2020. Having her generously share time during on her sabbatical this past year, I have had the opportunity to hear in detail of her plans for the centre. Drawing on her vast scholarship that encompasses indigenous feminism, anti-racism, socialist studies, gender studies, environmental studies and social justice, I know that Prof Coburn will take the CFR to new and exciting directions. I feel confident that the CFR will continue to take a leadership role in the development of new knowledges that are vitally needed in this moment to shape a better future.

Take Care all, and be well,

Enakshi Dua
Event Highlights

State Surveillance, Muslim Subjects and Islamophobia Symposium & Graduate Student Workshop

December 5 & 6, 2019
In Collaboration with the Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women’s Studies

As part of the Spotlight on Islamophobia Series, this event brought together international and Canadian scholars and activists over two days through lectures and workshops. Participants explored the implications of British and Canadian state national security strategies for the civil liberties of Muslim subjects, and the ways these regulations shape and reinforce the discourses of Islamophobia. The Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women’s Studies Annual Lecture was given by Dr. Nisha Kapoor. The keynote lecture was titled ‘Meek’, ‘Mother’, ‘Monster’: Sur(veil)ing Muslim Women. On December 6th, Dr. Kapoor hosted a workshop for graduate students working on issues of Islamophobia.

Dr. Nisha Kapoor is an Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick and author of Deport, Deprive, Extradite: 21st Century State Extremism (2018). She has held appointments at the University of York (UK) and Duke University, where she was 2012-13 Samuel DuBois Cook Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for the study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences (REGSS) and at Manchester Metropolitan University. She was awarded an ESRC Future Research Leaders Award, 2015-18 entitled ‘Race, Citizenship and the State in the Context of the War on Terror.’
Khadija Cajee is an entrepreneur and the co-founder of No Fly List Kids (@noflylistkids), a grassroots advocacy group whose work compelled the Federal Government to legislate changes to Canada’s Secure Air Travel Act after she discovered her infant son had been falsely flagged as a security risk. She presented a paper titled Deemed High Profile: Kids on the No Fly List.

Dr. Jasmin Zine (Wilfrid Laurier University) has developed award winning curriculum on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism and worked with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe the Council of Europe, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on guidelines for educators and policy-makers on combating Islamophobia. She has completed a SSHRC-funded national study on the impact of 9/11, the ‘war on terror’ and domestic security discourses and policies on Canadian Muslim youth and is finishing a book manuscript based on this study. She is working on a SSHRC funded project mapping the Canadian Islamophobia industry in partnership with the National Council of Canadian Muslims. Dr. Zine’s presentation was titled Islamophobia and the Security Industrial Complex.

Hawa Y. Mire is a diasporic Somali storyteller, writer, and strategist with more than a decade of experience in high-impact community-based initiatives, as well as the co-editor of MAANDEEIQ, a collective of young Somali-demics from diverse fields who write about the Somali territories and the Somali diaspora. She holds a master’s degree in environmental studies from York University, where her research was preoccupied with storytelling as a site of social-boundary making, and is currently completing her PhD in anthropology at Carleton University.

This event was co-sponsored by: York University Graduate Students’ Association (YUGSA), Research Events Fund at the Dean’s Office of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and the Department of Sociology and the Department of Social Science.
Dr. Joyce Green Symposium

November 14, 2019
Organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Health. Co-organized by Drs. Elaine Coburn and Sean Hillier

This joint event was part of the Centre for Feminist Research Indigenous Women’s Speakers Series & the Faculty of Health Indigenous Lecture Series on Decolonising Health that featured Dr. Joyce Green who’s published work has dealt with Indigenous-state relations; Indigenous feminism; citizenship, identity, and racism in Canada’s political culture; Indigenous human rights and with reconciliation in Canada. Dr. Green is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Regina. Her research interests have focused on issues of decolonization in Canada, and of democracy in Canada. Most recently she has been preoccupied with the project of Indigenizing the university and with reconciliation problematics.

Dr. Green’s keynote lecture, Enabling Reconciliation or Enabling Colonialism? was followed by a workshop for junior faculty and graduate students.

Dr. Green is the editor of Making Space for Indigenous Feminism (Fernwood Publishing and Zed Books, 2007; 2nd. ed 2017) and of Indivisible: Indigenous Human Rights (Fernwood Publishing 2014). Dr. Green is of English, Ktunaxa, and Cree–Scottish Metis descent, and her family’s experiences have provoked much of her scholarly and political work. She currently lives nʔa·kiskaqʔit, in ʔamakis Ktunaxa (Cranbrook, B.C., in Ktunaxa territory).
News From Our Associates

QueerEdge: From Gay to Queer Liberation (2019), a feature documentary film by Dr. Nick Mulé and Queer Ontario

This feature documentary links the principles and tenets of gay liberation in the Stonewall era to today’s queer liberation movements. The interviews, spanning historical and contemporary LGBTQ issues, reveal internal politics, provide a critical analysis of the mainstreaming effects of the LGBT equality movements vs. the progressive, sex-positive views of queer liberation movements, and uncover an internal divide between those who are content with equality and those who continue to fight for liberation. www.queeredge.ca

Beyond Repair?: Mayan Women’s Protagonism in the Aftermath of Genocidal Harm (Rutgers University Press, 2019) by Dr. Alison Crosby and Dr. M. Brinton Lykes

Alison Crosby and M. Brinton Lykes explore a group of Mayan women’s collective struggle for justice in the aftermath of harm suffered during the height of Guatemala’s genocidal violence in the early 1980s, a harm these protagonists contend is irreparable yet must be redressed. Drawing on eight years of feminist participatory action research (PAR), the book examines how Mayan women’s protagonism has been shaped through dialogic interactions with intermediaries, including Mayan, ladina, mestiza and transnational activists, feminists, lawyers, psychologists, interpreters, and the authors as researchers.
Disciplining Coolies: An Archival Footprint of Trinidad, 1846 (Peter Lang Publishers, 2019)
by Dr. Amar Wahab

The early years of the East Indian Indentureship system in the Caribbean saw experiments on "coolie" laborers under the British Empire. Colonial Trinidad was one of the main sites for this experiment. This book foregrounds one of the earliest cases (1846) of occupational and physical cruelty against East Indian indentured laborers in Trinidad within this very early period of experimentation. It presents and analyzes the full transcripts of an inquiry concerning the ill-treatment of "coolie" laborers and the severe punishment and death of one laborer, Kunduppa, by a Scottish planter in Trinidad. Drawing on the concepts of discipline, governmentality, and Orientalism, the main argument of the manuscript is that within the early experimental period of Indentureship, the figure of the "coolie" and disciplinary tactics of bodily torture were instrumental to redrafting and stabilizing the colonial governance of contract labor.

Disrupting Deportability: Transnational Workers Organize (IRL, Cornell University Press, 2019)
by Dr. Leah Vosko

In an original and striking study of migration management in operation, Disrupting Deportability highlights obstacles confronting temporary migrant workers in Canada seeking to exercise their labor rights. Leah F. Vosko explores the effects of deportability on Mexican nationals participating in Canada’s Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP). Vosko follows the decade-long legal and political struggle of a group of Mexican SAWP migrants in British Columbia to establish and maintain meaningful collective representation. Her case study reveals how modalities of deportability such as termination without cause, blacklisting, and attrition destabilize legally authorized temporary migrant agricultural workers.
Winner of the Mary McEwan Memorial Award

Dr. Sheila Jennings

Before undertaking her PhD at Osgoode Hall Law School, Sheila completed her MA in Critical Disability Studies also at York University after practicing family and child welfare law in downtown Toronto. Sheila has wide ranging academic interests that include: feminist legal and other critical theories; child welfare and family law; health law and policy; constitutional law; and administrative law. For the past two years Sheila has been lecturing, including at OCAD University, Ryerson University and at Ontario Tech University in the areas of law, disability and health policy. As an advocate in the leadership and on the Board of the National Network, Moms Stop The Harm, Sheila has spoken about the Opioid Crisis, including at the University of Toronto Law School, York University Graduate Faculty of Nursing and at Humber College. She currently teaches a graduate level course about the opioid crisis at OCAD University. She has importantly raised three children, now three amazing young adults. Sheila is a Francophile who enjoys French novels and films, as well as hanging out with her partner, her children and their partners, reading to her mother on Zoom and walking her South Texan rescue dog Flossie.

In her thesis, The Right to Support: Severely Disabled Children & Their Mothers, Sheila examines how severely disabled children and their mothers, who are usually their primary caregivers, are treated by Canadian law and policy. She identifies and analyzes deficiencies in care and other supports the state makes available to them, providing an analysis of the role of the state as it increasingly privatizes responsibility for supports, including unpredictable and often complex forms of care, situating them in practice, with mothers. Using conceptual frameworks from feminist standpoint theory and drawing on Paolo Freire’s theory of critical consciousness, she analyzes legal cases, legislation and policies, as being founded upon a series of myths. She assesses paradigms that underlie current legal arrangements, in particular, the roles assigned to mothers of children with severe disabilities. Her analysis engages with administrative law, tort law and constitutional law, as well as child welfare and family law. Reforms could enable severely disabled children and their mothers to achieve more just outcomes are presented.

This award is named in honour of Dr. Mary McEwan, a feminist psychologist, and it commemorates an exceptional Canadian feminist for her commitment to scholarship and radical change.

Stay tuned for the upcoming call for nominations: cfr.info.yorku.ca/awards
Dr. Emily Colpitts is a Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar and teaches in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies. Weaving together scholarship and activism, her research critically analyzes ways of understanding and responding to gendered and sexual violence. Funded by the Elia Scholars Program and SSHRC, her dissertation drew on ethnographic research with stakeholders at three Ontario universities to examine how they address the intersectional nature of sexual violence and found that while many universities have adopted intersectional language, their prevention efforts and support services continue to frame sexual violence as a depoliticized, identity-neutral issue. Her current project, funded by a York Postdoctoral Fellowship, explores whether and how Canadian universities engage with male students and masculinities in their efforts to prevent sexual violence on campus. Emily's work appears in the Canadian Journal of Development Studies, BMC Public Health, the International Journal for Equity in Health, and in the forthcoming Rape culture 101: Programming change.

Warren Harding is a PhD candidate (ABD) in the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University. While pursuing his PhD, he earned an A.M. in Comparative Literature at Brown through the Open Graduate Education Program and an A.M. in Africana Studies. Warren also earned a B.A. with Honors in Africana Studies and History from Oberlin College where he was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. He is currently researching and writing for his dissertation, which explores how Black Caribbean migrant women construct notions of belonging between the African and Caribbean diasporas through their creative expression, curatorial, and publishing practices. Warren’s study combines the fields of Black Feminist Literary Criticism, Black Caribbean Migration Studies, and Caribbean Women’s Writing and Criticism. More broadly, he is interested in literary and cultural movements throughout the African diaspora. Warren's research has received funding from the Social Science Research Council and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
Dr. Maud Perrier is a sociologist based at the University of Bristol, UK. She has written from a feminist perspective on motherhood, class, neoliberalism, and critical pedagogy in journals such as Gender and Education, Feminist Formations, Sociology, Sociological Review and Australian Feminist Studies, amongst others. Dr. Perrier has co-edited with Maria Fannin Refiguring The Postmaternal: Feminist Responses to the Forgetting of the Maternal (2018, Routledge). This edited book argues that contemporary feminism has not forgotten motherhood demonstrates how a thriving tradition of interdisciplinary maternal scholars draw on black, queer, ecological and socialist feminisms to contest the co-optation of care and maternity by neoliberalism. She is co-editing (with Elaine Swan and Janet Sayers) a forthcoming special Section of the Journal Gender, Work and Organization entitled ‘FoodWork: Gendered, Classed and Racialized Labours’. The Bourdieusian analysis of class she adapted for her mothering research has shifted towards a feminist critique of capitalism informed both by Dr. Perrier’s reading of social reproduction theory and by her own trade union activism. Dr. Perrier is completing her monograph, Politicizing Childcare: Maternal Workers, Class and Contemporary Feminism.

Dr. Naveen Minai is the 2019-20 Visiting Scholar in Sexuality Studies at the Centre for Feminist Research. Dr. Minai holds a PhD in gender studies from UCLA and specializes in transnational sexuality studies, queer and trans masculinities of color, transnational visual and literary cultures of North America and South Asia, and diaspora studies. She has been a research/teaching fellow at Sciences Po, Paris (2018), and is currently a research fellow at the Digital Research Ethics Collaboratory (DREC) at the University of Toronto. Her current work is on digital archives, sexualities, and queer affect within a transnational framework.
**Abdullah Qureshi** is a Pakistani born artist, educator, and cultural producer. Within his practice, he is interested in using painting and collaborative artistic methodologies to address personal histories, traumatic pasts, and childhood memories. His on-going doctoral project, Mythological Migrations: Imagining Queer Muslim Utopias, examines formations of queer identity and resistance in Muslim migratory contexts - in particular, working with narratives of LGBTIQ+ Muslim refugees and asylum seekers in Finland, and situating them within Islamic history and culture as a way of challenging issues of invisible whiteness in the Nordic region. In 2017, Qureshi received the Art and International Cooperation fellowship at Zurich University of the Arts, and in 2018, a research fellowship at the Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research, Boston. His work is currently supported by Kone Foundation, Finland. [www.abdullahqureshi.org](http://www.abdullahqureshi.org)

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**Dr. Tiffany Pollock** is a Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar and the Coordinator of the Centre for Feminist Research. Her research in Southeast Asia and Canada with migrant workers and young refugees employs feminist ethnographic methods to examine how artistic practices are employed by social actors to grapple with global, regional and local mobilities. She is currently working on a monograph, "Unruly Affects: Labor, Moralities and Kinship Among Fire Dancers in the Thai Tourism Industry," that elaborates the affective worlds of Thai and Burmese male fire dancers who perform for tourists. The book examines how changing migration patterns, colonial erotics and neoliberal modalities of danced labor are negotiated by fire dancers through affect and the corporeal. Based on extensive ethnographic fieldwork, she details how dancers establish solidarities across social divisions in the industry, but also create hierarchical regimes that are intersected by phenomena such as class, ethnicity, citizenship, gender and sexuality.
2019-2020 Events

**CFR Events**

*Bearing Witness, Holding Space: Black Caribbean Migrant Women and The Literacies of Belonging*

Talk by CERLAC and CFR Visiting Researcher Warren Harding

October 22, 2020, York University

Co-Sponsors: Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean and the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples at York

*Enabling Reconciliation or Enabling Colonialism: Transforming in Conditions of Colonialism and Ecological Crisis?*

Keynote lecture by Dr. Joyce Green

November 14, 2019, York University

A joint event in the Centre for Feminist Research Indigenous Women’s Speakers Series & the Faculty of Health Indigenous Lecture Series on Decolonising Health

Co-organized by: Dr. Elaine Coburn and Dr. Sean Hillier

Co-Sponsored by: Department of Equity Studies, Faculty of Environmental Studies, Office of the Dean-Faculty of Graduate Studies, Graduate Program in Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought, York Indigenous Teaching and Learning Fund, Glendon Indigenous Affairs Council.

**Spotlight on Islamophobia Series**

*State Surveillance, Muslim Subjects and Islamophobia*

Keynote Lecture by Dr. Nisha Kapoor

With Panelists: Dr. Jasmin Zine, Khadija Cajee and Hawa Mire and Hawa Mire

December 5, 2019, York University

A Joint event with The Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women’s Studies

*Islam, Sexuality and Islamophobia*

With Panelists: El-Farouk Khaki, Dr. Naveen Minai and Abdullah Qureshi

January 29, 2020, York University

*Anti-Blackness, Islam and Islamophobia*

With Panelists: Dr. Zulfikar Hirji, Dr. Fatimah Jackson-Best, Hannah Ali, Yusra Khogali

March 9, 2020, York University
Visiting Sexuality Studies Scholar Annual Lecture: The Desi Butch Archive: Refusals, Reworking, Reimagining
Talk by Visiting Sexuality Studies Scholar, Dr. Naveen Minai
May 27, 2020, Webinar
Co-sponsored by Sexuality Studies

Counter Thinking from the Nursery: Maternal Workers and Theorizing Contemporary Childcare Politics
Talk by CFR Visiting Scholar, Dr. Maud Perrier
May 7, 2020, Webinar

Film Screening of QueerEdge: From Gay to Queer Liberation (2019)
With Introduction by CFR Associate and film director, Dr. Nick Mulé
February 6, 2020, York University
Presented in collaboration with Sexuality Studies

Co-Sponsored Events

Decolonization, Social Movements and Performance in the Caribbean and Canada 1968-1988 Workshop
October 24-26, 2010, York University
Organized by: B. Anthony Bogues, Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice, Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory, Brown University; Ronald Cummings, Associate Professor, English, Language and Literature, Brock University; Honor Ford-Smith, Associate Professor, Cultural and Artistic Practices for Social and Environmental Justice, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

Book Launch: Disciplining Coolies: An Archival Footprint of Trinidad, 1846 (Peter Lang Publishers 2019) & Exhibition Launch: Coolie Hauntings
By Amar Wahab
October 24 to November 5, 2019, Canadian Language Museum, Glendon Gallery, Glendon

By Leah Vosko with Another Story Bookshop
January 31, 2020, The Centre for Social Innovation, Annex

Girls' Studies Research Network Launch: Snapshots From the Field
Organized By: Girls Studies Research Network, a CFR Research Cluster
September 13, 2019, York University
Graduate Program in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies Master's Symposium
Organized By: The Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies Department and the Centre for Feminist Research
October 1, 2019, York University

Queer Liberation Theory Project Study: Canadian Interviews Digital Exhibition Launch
By Dr. Nick Mulé and Queer Ontario, through Dissident Voices Productions
October 27, 2019, The ArQuives (formerly The Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives), Toronto

Race and Gender: Contributions to Legal and Social Science Studies in Brazil
By Dr. Gislene dos Santos, Associate Professor, EACH- USP, University of Sao Paulo
Organized by: The Brazilian Studies Program at York University
October 23, 2019, York University

Organized by: The CFR Research Cluster Girl Studies Research Network (GSRN) and The Institute for Research on Digital Learning (IRDL), with support from the York University and Ryerson University Libraries
January 13, 2020, York University

Reclaiming Justice: Memory and Memorialization of Violence Conference
Organized by: Shahrzad Mojab, The Art of Resistance in the Middle East: Women Political Prisoners
October 25-27, 2019, The University of Toronto

2 Years Later, at York U: Responses to The Equity Myth With: Dr. Frances Henry, FRSC and Professor Emerita, Anthropology; Dr. Carl James, FRSC and Professor, Education and Sociology; Dr. Ena Dua, Interim Director of the Centre for Feminist Research and Associate Professor, Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies. Discussant: Dr. Shirin Shahrookni, Department of Sociology, Glendon
Organized By: The Global Labour Research Centre at York University as part of the Global Labour Speakers Series
November 13, 2019, York University

Book Launch: Beyond Repair?: Mayan Women's Protagonism in the Aftermath of Genocidal Harm (Rutgers University Press 2019)
By Dr. Alison Crosby, York University and Dr. M. Brinton Lykes, Boston College
Discussant: Dr. Carlota McAllister, York University. Chair: Dr. Viviana Patroni, York University. May 10, 2019, York University