2012

Conference Programme / Programme du Congrès

May 26 – 29 / le 26 – 30 Mai

www.cwsaacef.com
## CWSA/ACÉF 2012 Congress Conference Programme May 27 – May 29, 2012

### 8:30- 5:00
**Informal Discussion/Morning Refreshments, Lounge Room AL209**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Concurrent Sessions</th>
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| 9:00 – 10:15| **Discover Hetero/homonationalism in Post-colonial Citizenship Models Past and Present**  
Chair: Ann Braithwaite  
Discover Canada, Again: Revisionist Histories and Canada’s 2009 Citizenship Guide **Beenash Jafri**  
Homonationalism, Multiculturalism, and Heteropatriarchal Imperatives; An Analysis of Discover Canada, Canada’s Citizenship Study Guide **Nadia Kanani**  
“Whose love? Whose liberty?: Homonationalism in Trinidad and Tobago” **Lauren Pragg**  
**ROOM AL211** |
|             | **Affective Feminist Politics in Teaching, Research and Practice**  
Chair: Patricia Elliot  
A Methodology of Kindness: Thinking through feminist pedagogy  
**Shoshana Magnet, Kathryn Trevenen, Corinne Mason**  
Affective Turns and Feminist Research: New Directions for Feminist Discourse Analysis **Heather Hillsburg**  
At the Crossroads of Analytic and Continental Philosophy & Practice and Theory: Reflections on a Feminist Ethics of Care **Geoffrey Bardwell**  
**ROOM AL105** |
|             | **Framing Dis/ease: How Prevailing Gender Discourses Infect/Inform Diagnosis and Treatment Protocols in Three Case Studies**  
Reporting “Reality”: An Analysis of the Representation of Gender, Health, and Illness in Magazine Articles about Fibromyalgia **Michelle Skopp-Dror**  
Injecting and Rejecting, Framing and Shaming: The HPV Vaccine and the Subjectification of Identities **Nicole Charles**  
An Intersectionality based approach to FASD: Beyond ‘Women’ + ‘Culture’ + ‘Risk’ **Gemma Hunting**  
**ROOM AL124** |
|             | **Gender Regulation and Performance: Insidious Normativities**  
Chair: Annalee Lepp  
Single, Awkward, Female: Deb Digiovanni and the rise of the female stand-up comic in Canadian popular culture **Danielle J. Deveau**  
“Fa(c)tvism: Fat Activism and Feminism” **Jessica Khouri**  
Queering the Cover: Lucas Silveira’s Autobiographical Performance Project **Craig Jennex**  
**ROOM AL208** |
| 10:15 – 10:30| **Break** |
### Concurrent Sessions

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 10:30 - 11:45 | **Imperialism/Paternalism in Cultural and Legal Discourses - Who Speaks for Whom?**  
Chair: Wendy Peters  
Harem et sexualité dans le Maghreb précolonial Une entrave à penser les rapports sociaux de sexe  
Moujoud Nasima  
Polygamy at the Crossroads: Situating Canadian Anti-Polygamy Laws and their Structural Effects on Polygamous Women in Canada  
Nathan Rambukkana  
Anxieties of Citizenship at the Crossroads: Arizona’s SB 1070 and HB 2443 Legislation as Imperialist, Orientalist and Racist Acts  
Jennifer Musial  
**ROOM AL105** |
|               | **Performative Articulations: Finding Voice and Visibility through Active Arts**  
Claudie Massicotte  
A Language of One’s Own? Spiritualism, Glossolalia and the Female Voice  
Tracing Dance’s Affect: Remembrance and Reparation in Lata Pada’s Revealed By Fire  
Elan Marchinko  
**ROOM AL105** |
|               | **Feminist Pop Culture: Angles of Affirmation and Appropriation**  
Chair: Rhiannon Bury  
In-Roads, Crossroads, or Road Blocks? Theorizing Women and Transfolk’s Contemporary & Future Position(s) in Canadian DJ Culture  
Maren Hancock  
Feminists, LEGO “Friends,” and LEGO Fans: Building Beyond Sexism  
Nadine Wettlaufer  
The Girl Gang: NYX, the Monstrous Feminine, and Female Collectives in Popular Culture  
Chris Richardson  
**ROOM AL124** |
|               | **Survival Sex, Sex Work and Celebrating Sex: Differences and Solidarities**  
Chair: Annalee Lepp  
A Crossroads for Sex Work Research; Beyond the Feminists versus Sex Workers Debate  
Meaghan Ross  
Sex Work and the Justice-to-Come: Feminist Coalition Building at a Crossroads  
Mary Bunch  
Queer (Un)Belonging: Reframing Sexual Citizenship Through the Feminist Porn Awards  
Naomi de Szegheo-Lang  
**ROOM AL208** |

### Lunch Break and Lunchtime Session

Sidonie Smith: “Toward a Sustainable Humanities: Reconceptualizing Doctoral Education for the 21st Century”  
12:15 – 1:20 p.m.  
Location: Modern Languages Building (UW)
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Concurrent Sessions</th>
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| 1:30 - 2:45  | **Resisting Patriarchy and Imperialism: Representation of Muslim Women in south Asian Cinemas**  
|              | “Talaaq, Talaaq, Talaaq”: Negotiating Female Agency in Nikaah  
|              | Asma Sayed  
|              | Bol: Cinematic imagination and Muslim Women’s Agency in Contemporary Pakistan  
|              | Shahnaz Khan (chair)  
|              | Muslim Women’s Resistance Narratives in South Asian Cinema  
|              | Alka Kurian  
|              | ROOM AL211  
|              | **Archiving Lives: Pasts that Haunt Present Politics**  
|              | Chair: Wendy Peters  
|              | Queer Lineage in the Family Archive: Inheritance, Affect and Generational Time  
|              | Tamara de Szegheo Lang  
|              | Fictional Intimacies and Historical (Re)engagements: Revaluing our Political and Theoretical Pasts  
|              | Mandy Koolen  
|              | Cross-disciplinarity and Making Room: Missing Women and Sex Work database project  
|              | Shawna Ferris, Charly Wreggitt, Danielle Allard  
|              | ROOM AL105  
|              | **Beyond the Madwoman's Attic: Mad/Feminist Cultural and Theoretical Intersections**  
|              | Melissa Carrol (panel chair/timekeeper)  
|              | The Personal is Political: American Narratives of Institutionalization as Mad Feminist Pedagogy  
|              | PhebeAnn Wolframe  
|              | Psychiatricized Women at the Crossroads: What can Mad Studies and Women’s Studies Learn from Personal Narratives of Women Psychiatric System Survivors?  
|              | Onar Usar  
|              | Making Bipolar Britney a Feminist Issue  
|              | Jijian Voronka  
|              | ROOM AL124  
|              | **Women’s Studies and the Humanitites: Feminist Scholarship and Teaching at a Crossroads**  
|              | Chair: Annalee Lepp  
|              | Too Feminist or Not Quite Feminist Enough: Humanities Scholarship and Women’s/ and Gender Studies  
|              | Heather Latimer  
|              | Applied Feminism? Applied Humanities? Gender Studies and College Course Design  
|              | Ann McKinnon  
|              | Rewriting the Fairy Tales of Feminism: Film, Literature, and Feminist Pedagogy  
|              | Kim Snowden  
|              | ROOM AL208  
| 2:45 - 3:00  | Break  
| 3:00 – 4:15 | Awards ceremony (essay prizes & book award; essays prizes read essay) AL 113  
| 4:30 – 7:00 | Reception  
|              | Location: The Laurel Room
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 5:00</td>
<td>Informal Discussion/Morning Refreshments, Lounge, Room AL209</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:15</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td>Gendering In/Securities: Situated Modes of Surveillance</td>
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<td>Chair: Wendy Peters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Imperial Fantasies of Fit Maalee Bulls: Militarized Masculinities in White Settler Societies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ashley Bickerton</td>
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<td>&quot;The ‘Jihadi’ Womb: Anti-Colonial/Racist Readings of Reproductive Capabilities of Women of Colour&quot;</td>
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<td>Shaista Patel</td>
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<td>ROOM AL211</td>
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<td>Cameras, Websites and Wikipedia: Femininities, Masculinities and Feminisms in the Digital Age</td>
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<td>Chair: Rhiannon Bury</td>
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<td>“Loud, Proud, and Sarcastic”: Creating Young Feminist Internet Communities and Connections</td>
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<td>Jessalynn Keller</td>
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<td>Queer Possibilities</td>
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<td>April Sharkey</td>
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<td>(Re)Writing &quot;Feminism in Canada:&quot; Wikipedia in the Feminist Classroom</td>
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<td>Alana Cattapan</td>
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<td>ROOM AL105</td>
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<td>Mothering and Hip Hop Culture: A Roundtable with Contributors</td>
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<td>Editorial overview</td>
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<td>Maki Motapanyane (Chair)</td>
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<td>Interviewing Lindsey Eekwol Knight: Aboriginal hip-hop artist</td>
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<td>Shana Calixte</td>
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<td>Dear Mama Odes among prominent male rappers</td>
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<td>Nicholas Powers</td>
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<td>ROOM AL124</td>
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<td>Canadian Women’s Studies Association and the Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Women: A Roundtable Discussion at our Crossroads to Explore Possible Mutual and Separate Paths</td>
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<td>Ann Denis, Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Marie Lovrod, Annalee Lepp, Ann Braithwaite.</td>
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<td>Now that both organizations appear to define themselves as being at a crossroads, this roundtable session provides an overview of the respective histories of our organizations, with an eye toward possible futures.</td>
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<td>10:15- 10:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:45</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
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<td>Janet Conway, CRC, Brock University</td>
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<td>Transnational feminism’ in question: bridging theoretical and activist practices</td>
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<td>Room AL113</td>
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<td>Provoked by the uncomfortable fit between transnational feminist practices observed at the World Social Forum over the last decade and theorizations of transnational feminism in the North American academy, this talk undertakes a genealogy of ‘transnational feminism’ in both sites in order to illuminate and provoke questions about both.</td>
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**Lunch Break and Lunchtime Session, Congress Big Thinker Keynote Speaker Series:**
Mary Ebets lecture: “Professor as Citizen” (Location Modern Languages Building (UW))

University faculty have specialized knowledge and a privileged position in society. But do they use that knowledge and privilege to inform their role as citizens, or are there constraints within the university that inhibit their full democratic engagement? Is it possible for idealism and a robust commitment to social justice to flourish, or even endure, in the modern Canadian university? Or are the roles of academic and citizen in fact contradictory? In her Big Thinking lecture at Congress 2012, Mary Ebets suggests that these questions hit hardest for junior academics who are dependent on the good opinion of colleagues for tenure and promotion, and on finding favour with funders.

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<td>Lunch Break and Lunchtime Session, Congress Big Thinker Keynote Speaker Series: Mary Ebets lecture: “Professor as Citizen” (Location Modern Languages Building (UW))</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:45</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>CWSA/ACEF Forum: Name Change Discussion</td>
<td>What is SHE Doing Here?: Practices of Resistance, Complicity and Evolving Ways of Naming Them</td>
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<td>Chair: Ann Braithwaite</td>
<td>Chair: Patricia Elliot</td>
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<td>La Grande Sartreuse?: Re-citing Beauvoir in Feminist Theory</td>
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<td>Kristin Rodier</td>
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<td>Feminist Asexuality and the Politics of “Not Doing It”</td>
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<td>Ela Przybylo</td>
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<td>What is SHE doing here?: Socialism, Feminism, and the New Postfeminist Woman</td>
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<td>Emily Hill</td>
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<td>ROOM AL211</td>
<td>ROOM AL105</td>
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<td>Health Care on the Margins: Dealing with Discrimination in the Flesh</td>
<td>Engaging the Transnational: Truth, Lies, Isolation and Memory</td>
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<td>Chair: Katie Aubrecht</td>
<td>Asian Immigrant Women in Canada</td>
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<td>Habiba Zaman</td>
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<td>Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Obstacles in the Social Mobilization of Afro-Brazilian Women</td>
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<td>Jessica Franklin</td>
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<td>Gender violence, subjectivity and uneasy privilege: Reflections from human rights workers in Guatemala’s CEH and REMHI truth and memory processes</td>
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<td>Emily Rosser</td>
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<td>ROOM AL208</td>
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<td>2:45 – 3:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:00 – 5:00</td>
<td>Association Annual General Meeting Room AL113</td>
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<td>5:00-7:00</td>
<td>Reception: The Festival Room</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>8:30 - 2:30</td>
<td>Informal Discussion/ Morning Refreshment, Lounge Room AL 209</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:15</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td>Graduate Student Caucus</td>
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<td>This space is provided to Graduate Student Members of CWSA/ACEF to support collective voice in the organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROOM AL211</td>
<td>Roaming the Ruins of the University? Women’s and Gender Studies in Neoliberal Times</td>
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<td>Moderator: Ann Braithwaite</td>
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<td>Representations of Women’s and Gender Studies in Canada</td>
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<td>Annalee Lepp</td>
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<td>From Learning Social Change to Preparing for the Labor Market and Back: The Women’s and Gender Studies Practicum in Neoliberal Times</td>
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<td>Jennifer Johnson and Susanne Luhmann</td>
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<td>Granting Tensions in Women’s and</td>
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<td>ROOM AL105</td>
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<td>Agency Amidst Decentering Practices and Politics on the Web, on Campus and in Community Organizing</td>
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<td>Chair: Jessica Khouri</td>
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<td>Reading Interfaces: Girls, Social Networking, and Self-formation</td>
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<td>Elyse Blake</td>
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<td>Seeking Solidarity at the Cross-Roads: Re-Storying the Contemporary ‘Woman’ Student</td>
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<td>Catherine Aubrecht, Izzy Mackenzie</td>
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<td>Feminist Organizations at a Crossroads: Facing a Changing Political Landscape</td>
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<td>Lisa Mae Boucher</td>
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<td>Roundtable: Creative Approaches to Teaching the Intro Course</td>
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<td>The Power of Shared Announcements</td>
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<td>Liz Groeneveld</td>
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<td>Students Defining the Field of Women’s/and Gender Studies</td>
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<td>Ilya Parkins</td>
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<td>Assigning Podcasts with Course Readings: Experiential Intersections</td>
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<td>Wendy Peters (Chair/Moderator)</td>
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<td>ROOM AL208</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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10:30 – 11:45
Plenary

CWSA/ACÉF Cross-Plenary Panel
with the Canadian Sociological Association
Co-organized by the co-hosting WS Programs
Moderators: Carla Fehr (UW), Margaret Toye (WLU)
Invited Panelists: Sunera Thobani (UBC), Malinda Smith (UofA)
Room: AL113

Women Leading the Academy: Negotiating Power and Identity at a Crossroads

Both the absence and presence of women as leaders in the university raises several important questions. What issues of power and identity do women leaders negotiate compared to the women and men who are led by them? Are these issues necessarily primarily/solely gendered ones? How much do women in the academy lead as “honorary men?” What kinds of expectations do other women/other feminists have of women in leadership positions? What kinds of leadership models do women who lead draw upon? As Jacqui Polerta (2011) asks, what kinds of issues of aggression, competition, discrimination and practices/accusations of complicity do women who lead and those who are led by them sometimes find themselves negotiating? Bringing together both women leaders and attendees from wide-ranging interdisciplinary backgrounds, the panel will focus on developing practical strategies to address the pressing issues that emerge when women become or are discouraged from becoming leaders at all levels of the academy.

This panel is funded by CFHSS as an interdisciplinary session.

11:45 - 1:00

Lunch Break and Lunchtime Session

Congress Big Thinker Keynote Speaker Series:
Margaret Atwood, “Bedtime Stories”
12:15 – 13:20, Location: J.G. Hagey Hall of the Humanities (UW)
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<td>1:30 – 2:45</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Sessions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Transnational Feminisms at a Crossroads</strong></td>
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<td>Transnational Feminisms and Activist Epistemologies</td>
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<td>Debbie Lunny (Chair)</td>
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<td>Applying Transnational Feminist Theories to International Internships/Volunteer Practices in the Global South</td>
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<td>Gada Mahrouse</td>
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<td>Querying the Sexual Politics of Transnational Feminist Organizing</td>
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<td>Trish Salah</td>
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<td>ROOM AL211</td>
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<td><strong>The Uncertainty of the Queer Archive: Producing Knowledge from Oral History – Queer Geographies Research</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Rhiannon Bury</td>
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<td>What to do with this ‘new’ knowledge: LGBTQ Archives in Lethbridge, AB</td>
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<td>Tiffany Muller Myrdahl</td>
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<td>Queer Culture and Social Change in Lethbridge, AB</td>
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<td>Brittney Adams</td>
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<td>ROOM AL105</td>
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<td><strong>Negotiating Motherhood, Morality, Profession and Passion: Complexities and Conundrums</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Jessica Khouri</td>
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<td>Unlikely bedfellows: Reconciling motherhood and sex through Madison Young’s Becoming MILF</td>
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<td>May Friedman</td>
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<td>Women Students at the Crossroads: Navigating Family Formation Amidst Uncertain Futures</td>
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<td>Amanda Watson</td>
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<td>The plaisir/jouissance construct, applied to the study of maternity and motherhood</td>
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<td>Kira Peterssson-Martin</td>
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<td><strong>Workshop: What are We Introducing in the Intro Course?</strong></td>
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<td>Ann Braithwaite</td>
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<td>Catherine Orr</td>
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<td>Susanne Luhmann (moderator)</td>
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<td>Narratives of progress and loss</td>
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<td>Identity, desires and impulses</td>
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<td>What constitutes the field?</td>
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<td>What are unintended consequences of teaching the intro – what do I NOT want as an outcome</td>
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<td>Tensions and debates in Women’s and Gender Studies</td>
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<td>ROOM AL208</td>
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<td>2:45 – 3:00</td>
<td><strong>Equity Panel: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dignity, Equality, Freedom – The Charter 30 years on.</strong></td>
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<td>Location: TBA (co-sponsored by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.)</td>
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<td>Doug Doug Elliott, Ryder Gilliland and Nathalie Des Rosiers reflect on experiences of Aboriginal people, women, racialized minorities and LGBT people to explore the Charter’s impact on rights and freedoms, social inclusion and democratic participation.</td>
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<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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**Tuesday, May 29**
**CWSA/ACEF 2012 Conference Programme**

**Tuesday, May 29th**

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<th>3:00 – 4:45</th>
<th>Concurrent Sessions</th>
<th>3:15 – 4:45 Social Movements and Professionalization – Canadian Society for the Study of Education, Society for Socialist Studies, Canadian Sociological Association</th>
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<td><strong>3:00 – 4:45</strong></td>
<td><strong>Art and the Body: Scraping Up Against Un/Desirable Knowledges</strong>&lt;br&gt;Encountering Disability and Complicating Curatorial Practice: A Critical Activist Video Art Exhibition&lt;br&gt;<strong>Sarah Brophy, Janice Hldaki</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fat Terror: Closeting Fatness in Fernando Botero’s Abu Grahib Series&lt;br&gt;<strong>Jessie Travis</strong>&lt;br&gt;Creative Subversions: Rebecca Belmore’s Fountain and the Labour of the Negative&lt;br&gt;<strong>Margot Francis (Chair)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ROOM AL211</strong></td>
<td>What happens to a social movement when it “goes professional”? Does its ability to bring about change improve? How do movement leaders stay true to their original aims? This session includes scholars examining the professionalization of social movement organizations in the disability, women’s rights, anti-poverty, environmental or child care movements.&lt;br&gt;<strong>ROOM AL208</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3:00 – 4:45</strong></td>
<td><strong>Queer and Feminist Special Collections</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chair: Annalee Lepp&lt;br&gt;Archiving the Transed Post-Queer: Notes Toward a Genealogy of Feminist Porn&lt;br&gt;<strong>Bobby Noble</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Collector is Dead: Feminist Archives, Subjectivity and the Question of Provenance&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lisa Sloniowski</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ROOM AL105</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3:00 – 4:45</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gender, Health and Representation: Conditioning the Contours of Identity</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chair: Jessica Khouri&lt;br&gt;Breaking the Cycle of “Break the Cycle”: A critical analysis of the bio-political discourses found within U by Kotex’s social media campaign&lt;br&gt;<strong>Sophie Zivku</strong>&lt;br&gt;Losing It? Subjectivity and Alzheimer’s in Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter and Annie Lloyd&lt;br&gt;<strong>Samantha Balzer</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>ROOM AL124</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5:00 – 6:15</strong></td>
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SUNDAY MAY 27
9:00am - 10:15am

Session 1: Discover Hetero/homonationalism in Post-colonial Citizenship Models Past and Present

Discover Canada, Again: Revisionist Histories and Canada’s 2009 Citizenship Guide
Beenash Jafri

How do modern states maintain the illusion of liberal democracy, even as they insert themselves into the discourse of a clash of civilisations endemic to the rhetoric that surrounds the ‘war on terror’? In this moment of blatant imperial discourse, more so than ever, how do the paradoxes of liberalism manage to evade critique within dominant political and media discourse? In this paper, I explore these questions through an examination of Canada’s newest citizenship guide.

Homonationalism, Multiculturalism, and Heteropatriarchal Imperatives; An Analysis of Discover Canada, Canada’s Citizenship Study Guide
Nadia Kanani

The exclusion of gay and lesbian rights from the 2009 Citizenship Study Guide is notable due to its incoherence with the progressive image of the Canadian state. However, this omission from the citizenship guide represents more than the exclusion of gays and lesbians from the national imaginary. This exclusion serves to erase queer bodies of colour from the public sphere and to regulate the sexuality of racialized immigrants.

“Whose love? Whose liberty?: Homonationalism in Trinidad and Tobago”
Lauren Pragg

This year marks the 50th anniversary of formal independence for the Caribbean nation of Trinidad & Tobago. In acknowledging this milestone, this paper will ask questions of the Trinididian nation-state in such a way that identifies the foundational nature of heteropatriarchy and privilege to its functioning. It also attempts to offer some ideas and strategies for theoretical and material organizing and community-building, both reflexively and for a larger, external conversation.

Session 2: Affective Feminist Politics in Teaching, Research and Practice

A Methodology of Kindness: Thinking through feminist pedagogy
Shoshana Magnet, Kathryn Trevenen, Corinne Mason

In our presentation, we aim to share our radical reconceptualization of kindness as a “technology of social transformation” (Sandoval, 2000). By providing a critical re-imagining of kindness we complicate its impure history and uses, including its relationship to oppressive racial, class and gender orders. Maintaining that kindness should not be abandoned, we explore the ways in which a politic of kindness can be used as a feminist tool in pedagogical practices.

Affective Turns and Feminist Research: New Directions for Feminist Discourse Analysis
Heather Hillsburg

This paper will map the emergence of affect theory in relation to post-structural thought, and explore the tensions between affect theory and discourse analysis. This paper will argue that debates surrounding the utility of experience to produce knowledge can offer useful insight into using seemingly contradictory theories in tandem. This paper will draw from feminist phenomenology to outline how this tension can give rise to new research methodologies.
At the Crossroads of Analytic and Continental Philosophy & Practice and Theory: Reflections on a Feminist Ethics of Care
Geoffrey Bardwell

Some approaches to feminist care ethics are inconsistent with practice. They are often situated within a traditional American liberal philosophical framework, which, I argue, lacks a theory of otherness. I provide an alternate view of care, drawing on my own experience practising care and the works of American feminists, Virginia Held and Joan Tronto, alongside French phenomenologist, Emmanuel Levinas, to arrive at a working definition based on five key elements.

Session 3: Framing Dis/ease: How Prevailing Gender Discourses Infect/Inform Diagnosis and Treatment Protocols in Three Case Studies

Reporting “Reality”: An Analysis of the Representation of Gender, Health, and Illness in Magazine Articles about Fibromyalgia
Michelle Skop-Dror

This presentation grapples with the following question: What forms of uncomfortable knowledge/s about fibromyalgia are avoided and disregarded in the mainstream media? Fibromyalgia is a controversial chronic pain condition of unknown origin. It affects 3% of Canadians of whom 80-90% are women. This presentation reports the findings of a qualitative study, which examined how women with fibromyalgia were represented in 25 magazine articles written between 1987 and 2010.

Injecting and Rejecting, Framing and Shaming: The HPV Vaccine and the Subject-ification of Identities
Nicole Charles

Through engaging feminist and postcolonial theorizations of knowledge and power, this paper analyzes how the promotional discourse for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine has privileged specific heteronormative bodies, and invalidated certain Others. Illuminating the forms of knowledge which have been deemed unintelligible and uncomfortable, I challenge the ideas of cultural belonging that are embedded within this discourse, at a time where citizenship is largely predicated upon consumption and responsible action.

An Intersectionality based approach to FASD: Beyond ‘Women’ + ‘Culture’ + ‘Risk’
Gemma Hunting

Using an intersectionality-based approach (IBA), this paper discusses how a focus on ‘women’, ‘cultural groups’, and people ‘at-risk’ in Canadian FASD policy reinforces discriminatory constructions of neglectful mothering and prevents meaningful policy responses to maternal substance use. The paper demonstrates the value of an IBA within policy research and analysis as it attends to the intersecting macro and micro processes that shape both health issues and their corresponding policy responses.

Session 4: Gender Regulation and Performance: Insidious Normativities

Single, Awkward, Female: Deb DiGiovanni and the rise of the female stand-up comic in Canadian popular culture
Danielle J. Deveau

In stand-up comedy, female comics play up their “unattractiveness,” a valuable comic technique in a workplace that is largely still dominated by men. This paper considers Canadian stand-up comic Deb DiGiovanni in relation to theories of gender in humour. I argue that, by framing herself as a “single, awkward, female,” DiGiovanni has been highly successful in negotiating power relations within the comedy club environment as well as the larger entertainment industry.
“Fa(c)tivism: Fat Activism and Feminism”  
Jessica Khouri

This paper explores fat stigma the thoughts and actions of four self-identified fat activists in Toronto, and their use of activism to politicize fat. Examining both individual acts of and community acts of activism, this paper notes the importance of fat activism in the resistance and elimination of societal fat stigma and in the (re)formation of positive fat identity while exploring the importance of fat activist principles to feminist scholarship.

Queering the Cover: Lucas Silveira’s Autobiographical Performance Project  
Craig Jennex

In a heteronormative culture that punishes non-normative subjects through physical, legislative, and quotidian forms of violence, the act of performing queerness in public serves as a significant form of resistance. In this paper, I look at Canadian singer/songwriter Lucas Silveira’s YouTube-based cover song project. Chronicling his experience on testosterone, Silveira performs cover versions of popular songs, repurposing dominant cultural materials for an explicitly queer end.

SUNDAY MAY 27
10:30am - 11:45am

Session 1: Imperialism/Paternalism in Cultural and Legal Discourses - Who Speaks for Whom?

Harem et sexualité dans le Maghreb précolonial Une entrave à penser les rapports sociaux de sexe  
Moujoud Nasima

Polygamy at the Crossroads: Situating Canadian Anti-Polygamy Laws and their Structural Effects on Polygamous Women in Canada  
Nathan Rambukkana

This paper explores linkages in Canadian law and policy on polygamy with broader discourses and ideological movements to police the intimate space of the Canadian nation. Using a combination of discourse analysis, feminist and intimacy theory, and critical immigration writing, this paper sifts through these connections highlighting the crucial gap between the rhetoric of “saving” polygamous women and the actual and pressing needs of women in polygamous unions.

Anxieties of Citizenship at the Crossroads: Arizona’s SB 1070 and HB 2443 Legislation as Imperialist, Orientalist and Racist Acts  
Jennifer Musial

“Driving while brown” and “aborting while of colour”: Arizona has taken legal steps to criminalize these through state laws SB 1070 “Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act” and HB 2443 “Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act of 2011”. My talk will argue the passage of SB 1070 and HB 2443 are deeply intertwined with Arizona and United States’ practices of imperialism, Orientalism and white supremacy.

Session 2: Performative Articulations: Finding Voice and Visibility through Active Arts

A Language of One’s Own? Spiritualism, Glossolalia and the Female Voice  
Claudie Massicotte

This paper examines the creative potential of mediums’ trance discourses in the nineteenth-century. I argue that spirit communications redefined women’s position in the symbolic order through their disintegration of traditional understandings of language and authorship. I explore the creative productions of Canadian mediums Susana Moodie, Susan Kilborm, and Annie Florence Smith and suggest their séances offered an original narrative strategy that implicitly undermined the unequal access of both genders to language.
Tracing Dance’s Affect: Remembrance and Reparation in Lata Pada’s Revealed By Fire
Elan Marchinko

This paper engages with Lata Pada’s 2001 multimedia dance performance Revealed By Fire, a creative representation of her journey through the loss of her family in the 1985 Air India bombings. I explore the limit points and generative potentials of this hybrid work to illuminate the instability of hierarchized structures of geopolitical territoriality, question conventional conceptions of the event of the bombings, and re-think identity politics and subjecthood.

Session 3: Feminist Pop Culture: Angles of Affirmation and Appropriation

In-Roads, Crossroads, or Road Blocks? Theorizing Women and Transfolk’s Contemporary & Future Position(s) in Canadian DJ Culture
Maren Hancock

This presentation looks closely at the lifespan of a lesbian nightclub in order to assess the importance of its presence and the subsequent impact of its closure. By utilizing Lick nightclub as a site for analyzing the intersection of gender with other factors such as race, class, sexuality, age and ability, I hope to illuminate the crossroads currently occupied by female and transgendered DJs in Canadian DJ culture.

Feminists, LEGO “Friends,” and LEGO Fans: Building Beyond Sexism
Nadine Wettlaufer

This paper analyzes the LEGO “Friends” line, one of the few LEGO lines marketed to girls. “Friends” has precipitated online skirmishes between feminists, who critique the line’s traditional femininity, and adult fans of LEGO (known as AFOLs), who welcome new LEGO sets and LEGO fans. Drawing on autoethnography and feminist material-semiotic analysis, I consider potential feminist-AFOL strategies to challenge sexism and build/dialogue in ways understandable to AFOLs and non-AFOL feminists.

The Girl Gang: NYX, the Monstrous Feminine, and Female Collectives in Popular Culture
Chris Richardson

Despite their historical existence, female gangs are scarce when it comes to popular culture representations. This invisibility makes Marvel’s comic series NYX an interesting case. In this paper, I explore NYX’s narrative, which revolves around three girls who join forces to fight pimps and thugs, revealing a discursive space in which the protagonists perpetuate certain popular conventions about women and group crime while challenging and subverting others.

Session 4: Survival Sex, Sex Work and Celebrating Sex: Differences and Solidarities

A Crossroads for Sex Work Research; Beyond the Feminists versus Sex Workers Debate
Meaghan Ross

Sex Work and the Justice-to-Come: Feminist Coalition Building at a Crossroads
Mary Bunch

With the challenge to prostitution laws in Bedford v. Canada stayed by appeal, Canadian law stand at a crossroads in relation to the sex trade, and so too do feminist responses. This paper treads the terrain of uncertainty in the politics of sex work, drawing on an understanding of law as a performative force to explore feminist perspectives and coalition-building in relation to sex worker activism and law in Canada.
Queer (Un)Belonging: Reframing Sexual Citizenship Through the Feminist Porn Awards  
Naomi de Szegheo-Lang

This paper explores the anti-homonormative and anti-homonationalist resistance work of Good For Her’s annual Feminist Porn Awards (FPAs). The FPAs demand a public engagement that queers the possibility of sexual citizenship while disrupting normative constructions of desire, intimacy, and national (un)belonging. Underscoring complex relations of representational space, this paper asks what is at stake in shifting porn’s terms of engagement.

SUNDAY MAY 27  
12:15pm - 1:20pm

“Toward a Sustainable Humanities: Reconceptualizing Doctoral Education for the 21st Century”  
Sidonie Smith

SUNDAY MAY 27  
1:30pm - 2:45pm

Session 1: Resisting Patriarchy and Imperialism: Representation of Muslim Women in south Asian Cinemas

“Talaaq, Talaaq, Talaaq”: Negotiating Female Agency in Nikaah  
Asma Sayed

Taking B. R. Chopra’s Nikaah (1982), which focuses on the subject of the role of Muslim women in South Asian, particularly, Indian society, and her rights within the institution of marriage, as a case study, this paper examines the cinematic representations of Muslim women in Bombay cinema, and argues that such films are landmarks which help to understand the changing status of Muslim women in the postcolonial Indian society.

Bol: Cinematic imagination and Muslim Women’s Agency in Contemporary Pakistan  
Shahnaz Khan (panel chair)

Drawing upon a 2011 film Bol by Pakistani director Shoaib Mansoor, this discussion examines cinematic imagination as contributing to a conversation about the promise and pitfalls of agency for those asking for gender and sexual justice. I argue that in Bol cinematic imagination is mobilized to serve notice to reified notions of tradition that their time has now past. At the same time we witness the emergence of more transgressive subjectivities in ways that cinema presents a promise of things to come. Bol identifies changing dynamics of gender and sexuality in Pakistan and its immense popularity holds the state to account for its inability to guarantee the citizenship rights of its most vulnerable citizens, including women as well as those whose sexuality cannot be contained within a homosexual/heterosexual binary.

Muslim Women’s Resistance Narratives in South Asian Cinema  
Alka Kurian

In this paper I propose to critically evaluate cinematic representations of the gendered basis of colonial and ‘postcolonial’ nation formation in South Asia. My analysis will touch upon the persistence of the nation-state that has, for all intents and purposes, denied women and other subaltern groups their democratic right to equal citizenship. I will base my argument on Shoaib Mansoor’s Khuda Kei Liye, Meena Nanji’s View from a Grain of Sand, and Shyam Benegal’s Mammo.
Session 2: Archiving Lives: Pasts that Haunt Present Politics

**Queer Lineage in the Family Archive: Inheritance, Affect and Generational Time**
Tamara de Szegheo Lang

Archives have often been used as spaces of fact-retrieval from which narratives of the past can be constructed. Following the work of archive theorists, I turn away from the content and towards the form of the family archive. Instead of searching for proof of queerness, I use the archive to consider problems of intergenerational memory, queer disruptions in generational time, and how these influence what remnants can be left behind.

**Fictional Intimacies and Historical (Re)engagements: Revaluing our Political and Theoretical Pasts**
Mandy Koolen

This paper examines the ability of lesbian-feminist historical fiction to foster (re)engagements with lesbian-feminist theory and challenge reductive understandings of the lesbian-feminist movement. While attending to the limitations of lesbian-feminist theories and practices, this paper argues that literature may provide a way for contemporary feminists to recognize the valuable contributions lesbian-feminists have made to feminist theorizing and activist practices.

**Cross-disciplinarity and Making Room: Missing Women and Sex Work database project**
Shawna Ferris, Charly Wreggitt, Danielle Allard

The Missing Women and Sex Work Database interdisciplinary research team is developing a digital archives to house academic research, print and visual media, on and offline activism, commemorative initiatives, and image collections related to missing women and sex work. This paper explores the project’s development, examines how to represent information using a feminist anti-violence methodology, and examines the complexities and possibilities that arise as a result of our meeting at the/a crossroads between our disciplines.

Session 3: Beyond the Madwoman's Attic: Mad/Feminist Cultural and Theoretical Intersections

**The Personal is Political: American Narratives of Institutionalization as Mad Feminist Pedagogy**
PhebeAnn Wolframe

This paper looks at Mary Jane Ward’s *The Snake Pit* (1947), Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar* (1963) and Susanna Kaysen’s *Girl, Interrupted* (1994). It argues that these narratives of involuntary hospitalization link three generations of women’s experiences of both psychiatrization, and feminist resistance, laying the foundation for a mad feminism which is available to psychiatrized/mad women who do not have access to broader feminist theories and communities.

**Psychiatrized Women at the Crossroads: What can Mad Studies and Women’s Studies Learn from Personal Narratives of Women Psychiatric System Survivors?**
Onar Usar

This paper looks at the selected letters written to the editors of *Phoenix Rising*, a Canadian anti-psychiatry journal, together with personal narratives of psychiatrized women featured in it. It examines various ways these writings confront and contest the intricate link between biomedical/psychiatric, ableist, racist, heterosexist, and patriarchal discourses, and discuss their significance in the cultivation of a critical dialogue between Women’s Studies and Mad Studies scholarship and activism.

**Making Bipolar Britney a Feminist Issue**
Jijian Voronka

This talk explores how the ‘breakdown’ of Britney Spears in media coverage propagated biomedical interpretations of and treatments for madness. From ‘bad girl’ to ‘mad girl,’ these thematics work to teach the public through popular magazines the ‘proper’ ways to approach, treat, comply and struggle with, and recover from mental illness.
Ultimately, such coverage works to teach readers biomedical methods of how to ‘make sense of’ mad difference.

**Session 4: Women’s Studies and the Humanities: Feminist Scholarship and Teaching at a Crossroads**

This panel addresses the current place of humanities scholarship, activism, and teaching in Women’s/and Gender Studies in Canada. At a time when those working within academic institutions are increasingly being told they must prove their scholarship is “useful” and their teaching has “impact,” we question what is at stake for scholars, activists, and teachers in this language? And why must we again remind ourselves that the arts, literature, and philosophy are foundational to feminist work and activism?

**Too Feminist or Not Quite Feminist Enough: Humanities Scholarship and Women’s/and Gender Studies**

Heather Latimer

This presentation links my experience of being a feminist humanities scholar and postdoc who is “on the market” to a broader discussion of how the marginalization of the humanities in the academy currently coincides with an increasing pressure for Women’s and/ Gender Studies scholars and departments to link themselves to areas of “relevant” research.

**Applied Feminism? Applied Humanities? Gender Studies and College Course Design**

Ann McKinnon

This presentation discusses the misconception that the social sciences are more naturally applied than the humanities when it comes to designing college level Women’s/ and Gender Studies courses. It details how feminist humanities courses can be designed to not only be interdisciplinary, but applied, practical, and transferable and articulate with programming at universities.

**Rewriting the Fairy Tales of Feminism: Film, Literature, and Feminist Pedagogy.**

Kim Snowden

How can feminist work in the humanities be politically relevant to students who often understand feminism from larger narratives within popular culture that are misinformed, negative and misogynistic? This paper addresses the ways in which my work in feminist literature and pop culture, with a focus on fairy tales, attempts to provide students with the language to engage with feminist politics and activism, creating feminist cultural pedagogy in the classroom.
Session 1: Gendering In/Securities: Situated Modes of Surveillance

The Imperial Fantasies of Fit Maalee Bulls: Militarized Masculinities in White Settler Societies
Ashley Bickerton

Colonel Williams, Specialist Graner and the Australian Skype Sex Scandal Cadets were represented in the media as the monstrous queer, the sadistic sicko and fit maalee bulls. What do the news narratives of our “bad apples” in uniform reveal about militarized masculinity? Relying on the theoretical work of feminists like Whitworth (2008), Howell (2011), Razack (2002), this paper introduces conceptual markers of militarized masculinities that relate to race, abelism and sexuality.

"The 'Jihadi' Womb: Anti-Colonial/Racist Readings of Reproductive Capabilities of Women of Colour"
Shaista Patel

My paper will argue that whereas Muslim women’s wombs have become the site of political contest, “family planning” has been presented as fighting not only the ‘evil’ of over-population, but of terrorism itself. I will also explain the difference between racial and colonial violence(s) in this context, and show how discourses of sexual and reproductive health mark the bodies of the colonized and the racialized, seen as dirty and impure, for different kinds of violence.

Session 2: Cameras, Websites and Wikipedia: Femininities, Masculinities and Feminisms in the Digital Age

“Loud, Proud, and Sarcastic”: Creating Young Feminist Internet Communities and Connections
Jessalyynn Keller

In this paper I investigate new articulations of feminist community, using the teenage feminist blogging community the FBomb as a case study. Drawing from girlhood studies and critical Internet studies literature, my discursive textual analysis of the FBomb, and interviews with FBomb bloggers, I argue that online blogging spaces provide significant opportunities for new and multiple formations of feminist communities that are a vital for the continuation of feminist politics.

Queer Possibilities
April Sharkey

This paper explores girlhood sexualities in the context of a queer classroom. More specifically, how do queer girls articulate their identities given the different places and spaces, both physical and imagined, they occupy? That is, how does queer-positive space allow for queer female identities?

(Re)Writing "Feminism in Canada:" Wikipedia in the Feminist Classroom
Alana Cattapan

In the winter of 2012, my students undertook the project of updating the Wikipedia page on “Feminism in Canada” to more accurately reflect the historical and contemporary realities of Canadian feminism. This paper chronicles the process and explores the many challenges that we encountered. Further, it demonstrates how Wikipedia served as a pedagogical tool that allowed students to challenge their roles as “learners” and “knowers” in the university classroom.

Session 3: Mothering and Hip Hop Culture: A Roundtable with Contributors

This round table is an opportunity for in-depth discussion with authors of the edited volume, Mothering and Hip-Hop Culture (Demeter Press, 2012). This book is the first effort of its kind: a focused exploration of motherhood as a
formative influence in Hip-Hop culture. Contributors explore the following: What do popular representations of mothers and motherhood in hip-hop reveal about power and politics in a society? How do women artists understand the relationship between their roles as mothers and as producers of culture?

Editorial overview
Maki Motapanyane

Maki Motapanyane, editor of the collection Mothering in Hip-Hop Culture: Representation and Experience, moderates this roundtable, also providing an overview of the aims, structure and relevance of this thematic for Women’s Studies, Hip-Hop Studies and broader cultural considerations. Of note will be the tenuous position of motherhood in the expressive forms of Hip-Hop culture, the ways that motherhood in Hip-Hop teeters between invisibility and trope, and the inspiring ways in which women artists are consistently troubling this binary through their creative expression.

Interviewing Lindsey Eekwol Knight: Aboriginal hip-hop artist
Shana Calixte

Calixte discusses her interview with the dynamic Emcee, Eekwol, of the Muskoday First Nation. She asks Eekwol about her recent projects, her experiences within the Canadian music industry, and the negotiations these require of her as a mother. We are given insight into the function of Hip-Hop within First Nations communities, the gendered dynamics of the music business, and the personal experiences of a prominent woman artist and mother in negotiating these realities.

Dear Mama Odes among prominent male rappers
Nicholas Powers

Nicholas Powers presents the Mother/Whore binary as a psychological complex and compellingly reflects on male rapper Jay-Z as exemplary of a particular type of African-American male hysteria. Powers sketches masculine hysteria as a form of self-medication for the emotionally wounded male rapper. Relying on a combination of Marxist influenced philosophy (Althusser) and psychoanalytic theory (Freudian, Lacanian), Powers forwards a persuasive analysis of the complex underlying dynamics that frame what often appears to be a love/hate relationship between men and women in Hip-Hop.

Session 4: Canadian Women’s Studies Association and the Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Women: A Roundtable Discussion at our Crossroads to Explore Possible Mutual and Separate Paths
Ann Denis, Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Marie Lovrod, Annalee Lepp, and Ann Braithwaite.

Now that both organizations appear to define themselves as being at a crossroads, this roundtable session provides an overview of the respective histories of our organizations, with an eye toward possible futures.

MONDAY MAY 28
10:30am - 11:45am

Transnational feminism’ in question: bridging theoretical and activist practices
Janet Conway, CRC, Brock University

Provoked by the uncomfortable fit between transnational feminist practices observed at the World Social Forum over the last decade and theorizations of transnational feminism in the North American academy, this talk undertakes a genealogy of ‘transnational feminism’ in both sites in order to illuminate and provoke questions about both.
MONDAY MAY 28
12:00pm - 1:15pm

Congress Big Thinker Keynote Speaker Series:
Mary Eberts lecture: “Professor as Citizen”

University faculty have specialized knowledge and a privileged position in society. But do they use that knowledge and privilege to inform their role as citizens, or are there constraints within the university that inhibit their full democratic engagement? Is it possible for idealism and a robust commitment to social justice to flourish, or even endure, in the modern Canadian university? Or are the roles of academic and citizen in fact contradictory? In her Big Thinking lecture at Congress 2012, Mary Eberts suggests that these questions hit hardest for junior academics who are dependent on the good opinion of colleagues for tenure and promotion, and on finding favour with funders.

MONDAY MAY 28
1:30pm - 2:45pm

Session 1: CWSA/ACEF Forum: Name Change

Should CWSA/ACEF contemplate changing the name of the association? If so, to what? And why? At a time when many of our own programs and departments are undertaking such discussions and/or changing their names, and when several members have approached the executive on this topic, the conversation is timely for the association also.

Session 2: What is SHE Doing Here?: Practices of Resistance, Complicity and Evolving Ways of Naming Them

La Grande Sartreuse?: Re-citing Beauvoir in Feminist Theory
Kristin Rodier

In this paper I consider the question of influence between Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre through the concept of "heterocitation" found in Clare Hemmings' new book Why Stories Matter (2011).

Feminist Asexuality and the Politics of “Not Doing It”
Ela Przybylo

This paper creates a conversation between feminist mentions of political asexuality from the women’s liberation movement and contemporary asexual identity and community. I argue that while it is naïve to assume that asexuality should be theorized and practiced today in the same way it was by feminists in the late sixties and seventies, these texts are relevant for examining asexuality in the new millennium because they remind us of the radical, political, and feminist implications of “not doing it.”

What is SHE doing here?: Socialism, Feminism, and the New Postfeminist Woman
Emily Hill

Drawing a comparison between the New Woman at the end of the nineteenth century and the Postfeminist Woman of today, this paper argues that the Postfeminist Woman offers an opportunity for us to re-examine women’s troubled relationships with capitalism. Exploring the convergence of feminism and socialism in fin-de-siècle Britain, I suggest that a return to the challenges made by early socialist feminists is essential for sharpening our critique of capitalism in the twenty-first century.

Session 3: Health Care on the Margins: Dealing with Discrimination in the Flesh

Implications of First Nations Evacuation Policy on Self-determination in Health Care
Karen Lawford
I utilize First Nations feminist theory and methodology to critique a federal health policy. My research as demonstrated that Canada’s evacuation policy for pregnant First Nations women living in rural and remote regions interrupts and undermines decolonization efforts, self-determination, land-based relationships, and community building. Because the Euro-Canadian bio-medical model is largely incongruent with First Nations epistemologies, health is challenging to realize. Policy recommendations are offered to address these incongruencies.

Caring for Women on the Margins: supporting Undocumented and Uninsured Birthing Women
Nadya Burton, Nicole Bennett

Amongst the aspirations that accompanied the push for regulation of midwifery in Ontario was the desire to meet the needs of women marginalized within the health care system. Since regulation in 1994, midwives have been able to bill for care provided to women not covered by provincial health insurance. This presentation explores the role played by midwives in providing care to uninsured pregnant women who constitute a particularly vulnerable population.

It’s the Journey and the Destination: Aboriginal Women Conceive of Health and Social Justice
Melissa St. Germaine-Small

For many Aboriginal women, research has a powerful emotional and spiritual component. Furthermore, we are continually engaged in multiple dialogues in which the reality of a colonial history is ever present. In discussing the joys and challenges experienced within my doctoral research, I draw attention to multiple aspects of context and the navigation of identity, knowledge and relationships—for both myself and the women who shared their stories.

Session 4: Engaging the Transnational: Truth, Lies, Isolation and Memory

Asian Immigrant Women in Canada
Habiba Zaman

Changes to immigration policy and the neo-liberal restructuring in British Columbia have lead to marginalization within the labour market and the creation of deregulated and hazardous workplaces for immigrants. Representing a diverse group of Asian immigrant women, the paper demonstrates a shared experience of precariousness and insecurity that has lead to the emergence of a broad-based alliance of workers aimed at addressing workplace security and rights.

Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Obstacles in the Social Mobilization of Afro-Brazilian Women
Jessica Franklin

This paper contends that to comprehend the recent obstacles facing Afro-Brazilian women activists at the national and transnational level, greater attention must be given to pervasive colonial discourses. Constructions of Afro-descendant women as subaltern bodies in Brazilian colonial narratives center this work. It establishes a significant linkage between intersecting structures of domination and the specific strategies and struggles of Afro-Brazilian women in contemporary spaces of activism.

Gender violence, subjectivity and uneasy privilege: Reflections from human rights workers in Guatemala’s CEH and REMHI truth and memory processes
Emily Rosser

Guatemala’s 1990s truth and memory processes were international pathbreakers in exposing sexual violence in the genocide against Mayan people. Despite victim-centered featuring of testimony, their analysis was generated more by non-indigenous rights workers than indigenous survivors. Why focus on the multiple subjectivities and negotiations of these workers? This paper highlights the interconstituting meanings of gendered and racialised victimhood and subjectivity which are central to representational practices in such transitional processes.
Tuesday, May 29th

Session 1: Graduate Student Caucus

This space is provided to Graduate Student Members of CWSA/ACEF to support collective voice in the organization.

Session 2: Roaming the Ruins of the University? Women’s and Gender Studies in Neoliberal Times

In this panel we present initial results from a larger collaborative research project that analyzes how Women's and Gender Studies programs are (re-)positioning themselves, their practices and commitments vis a vis the shifting--many may say ruined--landscape of Canadian Universities.

Representations of Women’s and Gender Studies in Canada
Annalee Lepp

After shepherding ongoing program and curriculum revisions through at my home institution and conducting a number of external reviews of WGST programs in Canada, my paper will examine the mission statements and curricular structure of as well as courses offered in Canadian WGST programs (as represented in publicly accessible and student-centred websites) with an eye to analyzing how WGST is being represented as a field or discipline.

From Learning Social Change to Preparing for the Labor Market and Back: The Women’s and Gender Studies Practicum in Neoliberal Times
Jennifer Johnson and Susanne Luhmann

Many Women's and Gender Studies programs in Canada have some form of practicum, internship, or service-learning component on the books, either as a compulsory or as an optional part of the undergraduate--and increasingly also of the graduate—degree. In this paper, we analyze the aspirations and effects of these practical degree components in the context of the corporate university.

Session 3: Agency Amidst Decentering Practices and Politics on the Web, on Campus and in Community Organizing

Reading Interfaces: Girls, Social Networking, and Self-formation
Elyse Blake

Louise Rennison’s diary series titled Confessions of Georgia Nicolson follows the life of an adolescent girl as she navigates friends, family and romance. While the series concluded in 2009, it continues to thrive on the popular social networking site, www.goodreads.com. Through reader reviews, readers engage in a sophisticated and agentive process of self-making by identifying with or distancing themselves from the protagonist of the series, Georgia Nicolson.

Seeking Solidarity at the Cross-Roads: Re-Storying the Contemporary ‘Woman’ Student
Catherine Aubrecht, Izzy Mackenzie

Through solidarity in strangeness, with strangers, many contemporary students are questioning the imperial grounds of what a 'woman' student identity means. Drawing on stories collected in interviews with 34 women students currently enrolled at a Canadian university in August 2011, this presentation explores what it means to be situated, and to situate oneself, as a contemporary 'woman' student in the "gendered terrain" of the university (Wagner et al. 2008).
Feminist Organizations at a Crossroads: Facing a Changing Political Landscape  
Lisa Mae Boucher

Drawing from interviews with feminist service providers, this paper examines women’s organizations’ experiences of neoliberal restructuring. In particular, I consider how changes to the political and funding climate have affected organizations’ daily work and highlight how they strategize around these challenges. This paper argues that feminist organizations are at a crossroads where questions about their relationships to state bodies, the nature of their service provision and their engagement in community action become ever more pressing.

Session 4: Roundtable: Creative Approaches to Teaching the Intro Course

Within this roundtable, Women’s and Gender Studies professors from different universities will each provide one example of a framework, reading, assignment, topic, film, text, or practice that has worked well for them in their teaching of Intro. We are collectively interested in sharing and discussing “best practices” with other professors and students in order to better design and deliver our own foundational courses in future.

The Power of Shared Announcements  
Liz Groeneveld

This year, I began each class with announcements about upcoming campus and community events with a feminist focus; I also shared any newsworthy items from the past week that are relevant to the course or, occasionally, a story. As the weeks passed, students began to approach me with their own announcements and stories. Announcing events helps build engaged feminist citizenship and develops student understanding of what counts as feminist issues.

Students Defining the Field of Women’s/and Gender Studies  
Ilya Parkins

In my 100-level course, students write a reflexive analysis of Gender Studies very early in the course, which provides an accessible entry point to theoretical work. By having them reflect on themselves in relation to a discipline, the analysis asks them to consider the relationship between personal and institutional knowledge. This assignment has been successful because it encourages students to understand themselves as knowledgeable agents in the context of the university.

Assigning Podcasts with Course Readings: Experiential Intersections  
Wendy Peters (Chair/Moderator)

This year I assigned podcasts alongside the required readings. The podcasts illustrated concepts outlined in the week’s readings, usually through personal storytelling. Students were required to submit three brief points where they applied the ideas from the readings to the podcasts. This new assignment appears to promote active, critical and dynamic engagement with the course concepts as students comprehend theories presented in the readings through their application to the lived experiences described in the podcasts.

TUESDAY MAY 29  
10:30am - 11:45am

CWSA/ACÉF Cross-Plenary Panel with the Canadian Sociological Association  
Co-organized by the co-hosting WS Programs  
Moderators: Carla Fehr (UW), Margaret Toye (WLU)  
Invited Panelists: Sunera Thobani (UBC), Malinda Smith (UofA)

Women Leading the Academy: Negotiating Power and Identity at a Crossroads

Both the absence and presence of women as leaders in the university raises several important questions. What issues of power and identity do women leaders negotiate compared to the women and men who are led by them? Are these
issues necessarily primarily/solely gendered ones? How much do women in the academy lead as “honourary men?”
What kinds of expectations do other women/other feminists have of women in leadership positions? What kinds of leadership models do women who lead draw upon? As Jacqui Polerta (2011) asks, what kinds of issues of aggression, competition, discrimination and practices/accusations of complicity do women who lead and those who are led by them sometimes find themselves negotiating? Bringing together both women leaders and attendees from wide-ranging interdisciplinary backgrounds, the panel will focus on developing practical strategies to address the pressing issues that emerge when women become or are discouraged from becoming leaders at all levels of the academy.

TUESDAY MAY 29
1:30pm - 2:45pm

Session 1: Transnational Feminisms at a Crossroads

This panel offers a critical look at the uses and limits of the frame of Transnational Feminisms (TF). How do movement-based and academic practices and knowledge production relate to one another, if at all? The papers explore the tensions in academic and activist understandings of TF through specific case studies of activism. Questions around power, (self-)representation, praxis, and differing contexts and epistemologies are addressed.

Transnational Feminisms and Activist Epistemologies
Debbie Lunny

Transnational feminisms have been alternately defined as a discourse, a theoretical framework, an emerging field, and as forms of activism. How does Transnational Feminist Studies (TFS) relate to transnational feminist activist organizing? How do the epistemologies at work in TFS compare to those at play in the simultaneously emerging field of Social Movement Learning (SML) and to activist epistemologies? What methodologies might allow for such comparisons?

Applying Transnational Feminist Theories to International Internships/Volunteer Practices in the Global South
Gada Mahrouse

Each year, thousands of young Canadians travel to the Global South to take part in various internship/volunteer programs. This paper reports on a two-year research project conducted with Projet Accompagnement Solidarité Colombie to design training for participants using accessible materials. The paper will address questions of power and privilege in these programs and the uses of certain transnational, decolonial, feminist theoretical and pedagogical approaches for ‘on the ground’ ‘beyond borders’ solidarity practices in the Global South.

Querying the Sexual Politics of Transnational Feminist Organizing
Trish Salah

This paper raises questions concerning the sexual (and gender) politics playing out in transnational feminist networks and through interstate bodies such as UN Women. It contemplates quite contradictory political analyses and activist programs and asks if, how and why a heuristic of gender/sexual violence reconstitutes gender as a primary instance of oppression amongst many intersecting vectors. Could this undermine genuine intersectionality and prioritize a politics of “rescue” over the political self-representation of marginalized women?

Session 2: The Uncertainty of the Queer Archive: Producing Knowledge from Oral History – Queer Geographies Research

This panel offers lessons from and reflections on The Lives of Sexual Others: Social difference and urban change in Lethbridge, Alberta, an ongoing research project that aims to collect, archive, disseminate and analyse oral histories and social geographies of LGBTQ people who currently live or have lived in the Lethbridge region. Each panelist will offer a brief discussion and analysis of this research and its goals for feminist knowledge production.
What to do with this ‘new’ knowledge: LGBTQ Archives in Lethbridge, AB
Tiffany Muller Myrdahl

I describe the origins (and shifting trajectories) of The Lives of Sexual Others project, especially its function within a tradition of feminist-collaborative research and as a reflection of conscientious production of lesbian and queer knowledges, histories, and geographies. Further, I discuss tensions over which knowledges are being produced out of the collection. I speak to the place-specific tension over whose voices and experiences are legitimated through the act of collection.

Queer Culture and Social Change in Lethbridge, AB
Brittney Adams

I will discuss the ways in which The Lives of (Sexual) Others project shines light upon Lethbridge, Alberta at a crossroads: the state of queer culture in the city may encourage the development of new social spaces and new definitions of engagement in the public sphere. Alternatively, the disparate visions for community engagement among LGBTQ-identified citizens may reproduce a regional status quo that is firmly grounded in political conservatism.

Session 3: Negotiating Motherhood, Morality, Profession and Passion: Complexities and Conundrums

Unlikely bedfellows: Reconciling motherhood and sex through Madison Young’s Becoming MILF
May Friedman

Weeks after giving birth to her first child, feminist porn star, artist and activist Madison Young put on an exhibit considering the apparent dichotomies between her roles as new mother and sex worker. By blending the traditional maternal with erotic materials, Young sought to provide a template for mothers to successfully resist the supposition that maternity and sexuality are entirely distinct. This presentation will seek to examine the various responses to Young’s exhibit and consider the resonance of both the work itself and the dialogue it has engendered.

Women Students at the Crossroads: Navigating Family Formation Amidst Uncertain Futures
Amanda Watson

The challenges faced by academic women are increasingly relevant, as more young women than ever in Canadian history are enrolling in graduate programs despite the fact that tuition is rising and parental leave policies, health benefits and employment opportunities for women doctoral students are inadequate means of support. This paper traces recent historical literature on women graduate students and suggests that women experience friction between career goals and family formation before starting either.

The plaisir/jouissance construct, applied to the study of maternity and motherhood
Kira Petersson-Martin

In “Le Plaisir du texte,” Roland Barthes speaks of the distinction between plaisir (the pleasure of convention) and jouissance (the ecstasy of defiance). This construct adds an important nuance to the study of maternity: desire. Within this presentation I attempt to illustrate the ways in which Barthes’ model – traditionally applied to the study of literature – can be used to analyse the relationships between mothers and the standards that bind them.

Session 4: Workshop: What are We Introducing in the Intro Course?

Ann Braithwaite, Catherine Orr, Susanne Luhmann (moderator)

This workshop explores two central questions about “intro,” informed by current debates in WGS: i) what kinds of narratives of “progress,” “loss,” and change do we (often inadvertently) tell in/through this course, and ii) how do we talk—and not talk—about “identity,” and about the field’s various political investments in this concept? Participants will engage in re-imagining “intro” in light of some of these observations.
Dignity, Equality, Freedom – The Charter 30 years on. (co-sponsored by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.)
Doug Elliott, Ryder Gilliland and Nathalie Des Rosiers

A reflection on experiences of Aboriginal people, women, racialized minorities and LGBT people to explore the Charter’s impact on rights and freedoms, social inclusion and democratic participation.

TUESDAY MAY 29
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Encountering Disability and Complicating Curatorial Practice: A Critical Activist Video Art Exhibition
Sarah Brophy, Janice Hildaki

In November 2010, we co-curated an exhibition called “Scrapes: Unruly Embodiments in Video Art” at the McMaster Museum of Art. This paper pursues the implications of “scrapes” and “to scrape” for knowing differently from a “crip” perspective (McRuer 2006). We engage with work by Jorge Lozano, Shelley Niro, Allyson Mitchell and Christina Zeidler, John Greyson, and Back to Back Theatre to explore ethical spectatorship in relation to multiple embodiment.

Fat Terror: Closeting Fatness in Fernando Botero’s Abu Ghraib Series
Jessie Travis

This paper takes up the work of Colombian artist, Fernando Botero, who completed fifty-six paintings based on the photographs of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. Best known for representations of corpulence, Botero’s Abu Ghraib Series illustrates “terrorist” bodies in typical Botero fashion: “fat.” What emerges is a complex intersection of the violences sanctioned by the War on Terror and the physical and cultural violence enacted upon the “fat” body in the name of the “War on Obesity.”

Creative Subversions: Rebecca Belmore’s Fountain and the Labour of the Negative
Margot Francis (Chair)

This presentation will explore how whiteness and Indigeneity are both occluded and conjured up in the banal visual emblems of Canadian social life. My focus is on the Anishinaabec artist Rebecca Belmore’s video Fountain, (2005). I examine how Belmore’s work enacts a public wounding which offers the possibility of moving from an unproblematised possession by the past to an imaginative reconsideration of it.

Session 2: Queer and Feminist Special Collections

Our panel explores the tensions between building women’s archive and special collections and those archival practices and theories which might be identified as queer and feminist. To explore this tension, we use two case studies: the collection and collection and archivization of feminist porn and the personal library and papers of noted feminist literary scholar and translator, Barbara Godard.

Archiving the Transed Post-Queer: Notes Toward a Genealogy of Feminist Porn
Bobby Noble

This paper takes as its manifest analytical task the explication of both that trace and the seeming contradiction between ‘feminism’ and ‘porn’ as it is emerging as post-porn feminism. It theorizes sexual representations as a meta-archive and explores the problematics associated with building a feminist porn archive inside the academic-corporate complex.
The Collector is Dead: Feminist Archives, Subjectivity and the Question of Provenance
Lisa Sloniowski

Archives and special collections are conceived of as sites of rationalization and thereby, sites that exclude certain lived experiences while fixing others into place. They may also be approached as sites integral to the destabilization of subjects. Using the example of the Barbara Godard library acquired in 2010 for York University Libraries, this paper will begin to explore the question, how does a feminist archive differ from a women’s archive?

Session 3: Gender, Health and Representation: Conditioning the Contours of Identity

Breaking the Cycle of “Break the Cycle”: A critical analysis of the bio-political discourses found within U by Kotex’s social media campaign
Sophie Zivku

Through discourse analysis and Foucauldian feminist theory, this paper exposes the way in which the body of the menstruating female is disciplined through the discourses of U by Kotex’s “Break the Cycle” social media campaign. The findings reveal how “Break the Cycle” disciplines women into a menstrual management regime through bio-political discourses and the post-feminist practice of product consumption, thereby perpetuating the present-day negative menstrual discourse it claims to reject.

Losing It? Subjectivity and Alzheimer’s in Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter and Annie Lloyd
Samantha Balzer

This paper challenges normative notions of persons with Alzheimer’s through a critical interrogation of two films, Deborah Hoffmann’s Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter and Cecelia Condit’s Annie Lloyd. I explore the alternative subjectivities developed through both the narratives developed and the formal filmic devices employed by each director.

TUESDAY MAY 29
3:15pm – 4:45pm

Social Movements and Professionalization – Canadian Society for the Study of Education, Society for Socialist Studies, Canadian Sociological Association

What happens to a social movement when it “goes professional”? Does its ability to bring about change improve? How do movement leaders stay true to their original aims? This session includes scholars examining the professionalization of social movement organizations in the disability, women’s rights, anti-poverty, environmental or child care movements.