INSTITUTE FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY AND FEMINIST STUDIES

2015-2016 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
From the Symposium in Fall 2015
Resisting Gendered and State Violence: Indigenous Women’s Activism (24-25 September, 2015)
Panel Discussion: Resisting Gendered Violence and Indigenous Sovereignty
Left to Right: Amanda Lickers (Reclaim Turtle Island), Molly Swain (Indigenous Women’s Two Spirit and Harm Reduction Coalition), Megan Kanerahtenháwi Whyte (Kahnawake Youth Forum; National Indigenous Young Women’s Council; Skátne Ionkwatehiahrónťie’ - “Our Families Grow Together”), lehente Foote (National Indigenous Youth Council on HIV and AIDS), and Krysta Williams (Native Youth Sexual Health Network).
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the fall 2016 IGSF newsletter, designed to keep members of our growing community up to date on the latest happenings at the Institute. In this issue, you can meet some of the people that make IGSF one of the most exciting and active sites at McGill for interdisciplinary research in gender, sexuality and feminist studies; for events that tackle urgent and timely questions; and exchanges between students, faculty and a wider public. As we kick off 2016-17 with a major change to our teaching programs, new faculty and a full roster of fall events, I invite you to keep up to date with what is happening at IGSF through our website or our Facebook page. Here are some of the highlights from the past year:

• Our major event in the fall was a two-day conference on Resisting Gender and State Violence: Indigenous Women’s Activism, a collaboration between IGSF and the Canadian Women’s Foundation, made possible thanks to a generous gift from IGSF supporter Dr. Cynthia Shewan in memory of her mother. This conference featured standing room only keynotes by Ellen Gabriel and McGill alumna Professor Audra Simpson (Columbia University), as well as exciting panels featuring young activists from Idle No More and other community based organizations doing exceptional work around issues such as murdered and missing women, the legacy of residential schools and the displacement of First Nations children, social justice activism, community empowerment and the importance of intergenerational exchange between women.

• In the winter, IGSF hosted “Why we Remember: HIV/ AIDS Media Now”, a two day conference on the long memory of HIV AIDS media production and activism from the early days of ACT-UP to the contemporary moment of AIDS nostalgia, erasure and new challenges. Our speakers included filmmakers like Richard Fung and Cecelia Aldorando, activists such as Jessica Lynn Whitbread of Love Positive Women and Ted Kerr and IGSF Visiting Professor Don’t Rhine, member of the Ultrared Collective who also ran a pre-conference residency with students on “What is the sound of organizing in Montreal?”.

• Director Carrie Rentschler stepped down in June 2015 after four years of outstanding service, where she grew the Institute and oversaw numerous changes. Professor Rentschler is William Dawson Scholar of Feminist Media and returns full time to Art History and Communications to continue her ground-breaking current research on bystanders, racial and gendered violence and the media. IGSF thanks Professor Rentschler for her invaluable contributions to the life of the Institute. Professor Alanna Thain of the department of English began in July 2015 for a three year term.

• A priority at IGSF is supporting and showcasing interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research by the many faculty and students who contribute to the life of the Institute. Professor Bunch and Cait McKinney, a postdoctoral fellow and IGSF lecturer, organized the first Queer Research Symposium to wrap up 2015-16; this will become an annual event. In summer 2015, IGSF hosted an international research workshop on “Affective Encounters: Activist Tools for Feminist Media Research” featuring researchers from Europe, Australia, Canada and the US. We held seven “Esquisses: Works in Progress” talks by IGSF affiliated faculty, and hosted five Visiting Professors and scholars, Postdoctoral Fellows and a Resident Graduate Researcher (PhD candidate Li Cornfeld). The last is a program we intend to grow in 2016-17 with the development of a dedicated graduate research office at the Institute. We also hosted several professional development events for students, such as
the Feminist Pedagogies workshop “Solving Sexism and Heterosexism in the Academy”. Lastly, IGSF offered space to feature the fascinating research our students are doing, graduate and undergraduate alike. Our "Pecha Kucha" evening featuring undergraduate research was a huge success and the template for both grad and undergrad versions in years to come.

- Fall 2016 marks the launch of a new, unified teaching program at IGSF that represents state of the field thinking around the intersecting areas that our Institute was designed to address. Our former programs in Women’s Studies and Sexual Diversity studies have been merged into a new program in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies (GSFS), with new core courses in subjects such as "Indigenous Feminisms", Trans* Feminisms, “Gender and Disability” and “Critical Race Theory”. IGSF would especially like to thank outgoing Administrative and Student Affairs Coordinator Claire Drummond and our current teaching chair Professor Ada Sinecore for their excellent work on the program changes.

- In 2016-17 we have many exciting events and visitors, including our third collaboration with Studio XX’s HTMLLES Festival, a two day conference on “Terms of Privacy: Intimacies, Exposures and Exceptions”, Nov. 4-5 2016. All fall events are listed on our website; we hope to see you there!

- If you like what IGSF is doing, please consider supporting us! You can donate to IGSF via the “make a gift” link on our home page. You can share news of our events with your circles. And you can come out to our events and connect to the exciting community of scholars and activists engaging with questions of gender, sexuality, feminism and social justice here at McGill.
INTRODUCING PROFESSOR BOBBY BENEDICTO, OUR NEW APPOINTMENT IN MEDIA AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Bobby Benedicto
Assistant Professor, Sexuality and Media Studies
IGSF and Department of Art History and Communication Studies

IGSF is pleased to announce that Professor Bobby Benedicto is our new joint hire in Sexuality and Media Studies (cross appointed with Art History and Communications). Benedicto is a specialist in transnational queer studies, postcolonial and critical race theory, media and cultural studies, cultural anthropology, and feminist theory. Professor Benedicto returns to McGill, where he held a postdoctoral fellowship at Media@McGill in 2013-15 and after working in Berlin and Maryland. His first book, Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the Global Scene (University of Minnesota Press, 2014), recounts the “emergence in twenty-first century Manila (the Philippines) of a “bright lights” gay scene: a world composed of dance clubs, upmarket bars, new media networks, and other sites that evoke images of a gay globe, but which remain bound to a landscape of disorder, mass poverty, and urban decay”. We are delighted to welcome Professor Benedicto back to McGill. Here is more about his research in his own words:

I am currently working on two book projects. The first, titled Queer Afterlives: Dictatorship Architecture, Transgender Performance, and the Place of the Dead, is an ethnographic study of the retro-futurist public buildings erected in Manila during the Marcos regime (1965-1986). The project investigates the transformation of neglected and abandoned state structures into venues for drag shows, camp evangelical sermons, and theatrical productions featuring transgender performers. Reading these structures as objects of nostalgia for the lost future of the past, the projects examines how visions of a coming modernity are encrypted into public buildings and are passed on, as a form of cultural inheritance, to queer performers tasked with reviving sites of decay. The second book, Fatal Sex is a series of essays on the aesthetics and erotics of death, covering topics such as: vintage pornography featuring performers who died during the HIV/AIDS crisis; public sex and industrial aesthetics in Berlin’s techno music scene; gay narcissism, doubling, and the death drive in representations of “boyfriend twins”; filmic representations of necrophilia and hybristophilia, and the video and performance art piece “Meat,” based on the case of Montreal “gay cannibal,” Luka Magnotta.
INTRODUCING PROFESSOR MARY BUNCH, FACULTY LECTURER AT IGSF

Mary Bunch
Faculty Lecturer, Gender, Sexuality and Social Justice Studies, Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies

Dr. Mary Bunch became the new Faculty Lecturer for IGSF in fall 2015. Following a two year postdoctoral fellowship in Sexual Diversity Studies at University of Toronto, Professor Bunch has been an active and engaged member of the IGSF community, with courses such as “Politics of Identity: Difference, Decolonizing Love, and the Subject of Power” and through her work on events such as the Queer Research Colloquium and Circuits of Consumption. Her research specialities include queer, feminist and critical theory, disability studies, continental philosophy and social and political thought. Here is a little bit more about her in her own words:


My first year as Faculty Lecturer at the Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies has been an enriching journey of discourse and learning. I was impressed by the incredible intellectual energy of my colleagues and students throughout the year. I attended some incredible presentations by distinguished scholars and cultural producers such as Wendy Brown, Roxanne Gay, Kelly Oliver, and Tanya Tagaq. Participating in events like the Esquisses lectures and collaborating to organize research Colloquia was a particular pleasure as a new faculty member, as these provided an opportunity to meet people and engage with the work of students, faculty members and visiting scholars at IGSF, as well as share some of my own work. It was also fantastic working with community partners and arts organizations like Eastern Bloc Gallery, who co-presented the Circuits of Consumption Colloquium. My experience as a teacher in the program has been both rewarding and challenging. As the only full time faculty member at IGSF, I taught six new courses with nearly 300 students this year, many of whom I knew by name by the end of the year. I was highly impressed by the quality of student work, their commitment to scholarship, and their enthusiastic engagement in feminist, queer, anti-racist and disability activism. I look forward to continuing these engagements next year, as we launch the new program in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies.

I have several new projects underway, including:

Sexing the Political Imaginary: Bringing a reparative lens to existing critiques of neoliberal politics, I argue that queer, sex worker, sex-ability, sexual health and sexual migration activists are envisioning alternative political frameworks and strategies to work toward alternative futures.

Socio-Cultural and Environmental Health Risks and Resilience among Street-Based Women and Transgender Sex Workers: I am a co-investigator with Treena Orchard, Cecilia Benoit and the Kitchener YMCA on this project that explores risk and resilience among sex workers in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge.

Embodying Difference: I am co-developing two workshops (at McGill and OCADU) with Dolleen Manning as co-applicants on Bodies in Translation: Activist Art, Technology, and Access to Life (BIT), a SSHRC Partnership Grant led by Carla Rice and Eliza Chandler (pending competition results this summer).
INTRODUCING OUR NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

As of Fall 2016, IGSF is introducing the undergraduate program in Gender, Sexuality, Feminist, and Social Justice Studies (GSFS) in place of our current Women's Studies and Sexual Diversity programs.

What is Social Justice?
It will be a dynamic program incorporating Social Justice frameworks—that is, critical race studies, disability studies, and Indigenous studies—explicitly into the course work in gender, sexuality, and feminism. Courses like Social Justice and Activism, Indigenous Feminisms, and Gender and Disability are now on the books! These courses exemplify the intersectional approach that IGSF courses have always taken, but in a more coherent manner. Naming these courses allows students to count on the fact that the department will offer them on a regular basis. Thus, the program has an entirely new name, but it reflects the existing scholarship and course work that students seek out at the Institute.

Why change Women's Studies and Sexual Diversity Studies?
Students and Professors alike found that the label “Women's Studies” didn't fully encompass the texts being discussed in Women's Studies nor did it showcase the range of theories or research methods that are used in their scholarship. The programs have always been described as interdisciplinary, but which disciplines were to be included within Women's Studies? That question is still up for debate, but it has been better defined with the inclusion of Social Justice Studies explicitly in these programs. At the same time, IGSF’s two programs – Women's Studies and Sexual Diversity Studies – became more separate in name than content. Women's Studies courses not only study women and gender, but also sexuality. Sexual Diversity studies courses incorporate historical realities about women's social positions and gender diversity. Both of these fields drew on one-another, so putting them together made sense to many IGSF stakeholders.

How did the process for making these changes unfold?
Discussions about this program began years ago—informally in 2012 and more formally as of 2013. Departmental meetings in 2013 and 2014 discussed the proposals for integrating these programs extensively. With consultation from students, professors, and administrators, these programs were passed through the various levels of approval all the way up to the Quebec Ministry of Education.

GSFS Courses include:
GSFS 200 - Feminist and Social Justice Studies
GSFS 250 - Sexual and Gender Diversity Studies
GSFS 300 - Research Inquiry
GSFS 301 - GSFS Current Topics 1
GSFS 302 - GSFS Current Topics 2
GSFS 303 - Gender and Disability
GSFS 304 - Postcolonial Feminist Theory
GSFS 305 - Critical Race Theories
GSFS 306 - Queer Theory
GSFS 307 - Indigenous Feminisms
GSFS 308 - Sex and Gender Minority Cultures
GSFS 400 - Capstone: Engaging in the Fields
GSFS 401 - GSFS Special Topics 1
GSFS 402 - GSFS Special Topics 2
GSFS 403 - Feminisms and the Law
GSFS 404 - Politics of Identity
GSFS 405 - Social Justice and Activism
GSFS 406 - Trans*Seminars
GSFS 407 - Sexuality and Gender: New Directions
GSFS 450 - Independent Reading and Research
GSFS 495 - Honours/Joint Honours Colloquium
GSFS 496 - Honours Thesis
GSFS 497 - Joint Honours Thesis
GSFS 499 - Internship: Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies
"Terms of Privacy: Intimacies, Exposures and Exceptions" is a two day conference featuring emerging and established scholars as well as leading artists in the fields of gender, sexuality and feminist approaches to digital art, media and culture. This conference will be held Nov. 4-5, 2016 at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The conference is presented by the McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (IGSF), of which PI Alanna Thain is the director.

"Terms of Privacy" is a collaboration with Studio XX, a bilingual, feminist artist-run centre for technological exploration, creation, and critique, founded in 1996. It runs in parallel with Studio XX’s biennial feminist festival of media arts + digital culture, The HTMlles 12: Terms of Privacy, Nov. 3-6, 2016. Since 1997, The HTMlles brings together artists, scholars, and activists passionate about critically engaging new technologies from a feminist perspective. The festival takes place biannually in Montreal, and its aim is to showcase cutting-edge projects produced by local and international artists. Each edition focuses on a specific theme and addresses urgent socio-political questions by pushing the boundaries of artistic and feminist practices. The conference "Terms of Privacy" aims to expand scholarship and public dialogue on key issues in feminist media arts and research exploring the question: what are the terms of privacy in an age of digital media, and how do we think about questions of gender, sexuality and feminist politics to rethink how privacy works today?

The conference will feature five panels showcasing cutting edge research by graduate students and early career researchers from around the world; a roundtable discussion that brings together leading artists, activists and academics around questions of professionalization, privacy and digital practices; an academic keynote by Beth Coleman, professor of Experimental Digital Media, director of the City as Platform Lab and a specialist in digital media, race theory, game culture, and literary studies; and an artist keynote by Amalia Ulman (also presenting work in the HTMLLES festival), whose recent exhibition at the Tate Modern "Excellences & Perfections" prompted The Telegraph to ask, "is this the first Instagram masterpiece"? Terms of Privacy will uniquely draw together artistic and academic researchers to explore and develop the tools of feminist practice in a digital age.

"Terms of Privacy" is a collaboration with Studio XX, a bilingual, feminist artist-run centre for technological exploration, creation, and critique, founded in 1996. It runs in parallel with Studio XX’s biennial feminist festival of media arts + digital culture, The HTMlles 12: Terms of Privacy, Nov. 3-6, 2016. Since 1997, The HTMlles brings together artists, scholars, and activists passionate about critically engaging new technologies from a feminist perspective.

Visit our website for more information about Terms of Privacy, as well as all our other events. Most IGSF events are free and open to the public.
EVENTS IN 2015-2016

This past year was incredibly active at IGSF, with numerous lectures, public talks, workshops and symposia that brought together a diverse and inspiring group of speakers. Most IGSF events are free and open to the public. You can visit our website as well as our Facebook page for more information about our upcoming events in 2016-17.

**ESQUISES**

Esquisses is a series of works-in-progress by researchers at McGill. This series of public lectures is a space for faculty and visiting scholars to share their ongoing research with the community.

**Queer Lumber**: *Forest Fraternity, Masculinity, and Sexuality from Loggers to Lumbersexuals*
September 30, 2015
Brian Martin, Williams College and Muriel Gold Visiting Professor, IGSF

**Disrupting the Biopolitical**: *The Ecstatic Politics of Disability*
October 21, 2015
Mary Bunch, Faculty Lecturer, IGSF

**Rape as Spectator Sport and Creepshot Entertainment**: *Social Media and the Valorization of Lack of Consent*
October 28th, 2015
Kelly Oliver, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University

**Politics and American Motherhood in the 1930s**: *Red-Baiting, Child Custody and the Strange Case of Mrs. Eaton*
November 12, 2015
Kristin Celello, Associate Professor, History, Queens University College, CUNY

**Fierce Love**: *What we can learn about epistemic responsibility from histories of AIDS advocacy*
November 16, 2016
Alexis Shotwell, Associate Professor of Sociology, Carleton University

**One Way Out Between Two Worlds**: *Dancing the Post-Digital Body in David Lynch*
December 2, 2015
Alanna Thain, Director, IGSF and Professor at the Department of English, McGill University

**Crossing borders in Western Australia**: *A journey of researching literacy, gender and sexuality*
February 17, 2016
Wendy Cumming-Potvin, Associate Professor, School of Education, Murdoch University

**Making Things Together, a research-creation swerve on Howard Becker’s Doing Things Together*
February 24, 2016
Lisa Henderson, Professor of Communication and Affiliate Faculty in American Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Queering the family from Homer to Hannibal**
March 30, 2016
Lynn Kozak, Professor at the Department of History and Classical Studies, McGill University
Public Talks

**Roxane Gay in Conversation with Rachel Zellars**
October 22, 2015
Roxane Gay is an acclaimed author of two bestselling books, An Untamed State (Grove Atlantic) and Bad Feminist (Harper Perennial), and one of our time’s foremost thinkers. Gay is beloved as a pop culture critic for her honest, funny and informed opinions on feminism, race, and gender. We are excited to present Roxane Gay in conversation with attorney, McGill Education PhD candidate, co-founder of the Third Eye Collective, and Director of the Girls Action Foundation, Rachel Zellars.

**In Conversation with Tanya Tagaq and Jesse Zubot**
21 February, 2016
Tanya Tagaq is an Inuk throat singer from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada. Jesse Zubot is a violinist who is a long-term collaborator with Tanya Tagaq. This public conversation, with vocal demonstrations, was moderated by Heather Igloliorte, Assistant professor of Aboriginal Art History, Concordia University.

**Indigenous Men and Masculinities: Legacies, Identities, Regeneration - A Book Launch**
March 11, 2016
*Indigenous Men and Masculinities* highlights voices of Indigenous male writers, traditional knowledge keepers, ex-gang members, war veterans, fathers, youth, two-spirited people, and Indigenous men working to end violence against women. Edited by Cree/Métis writer and educator, Kim Anderson and Rob Innes, Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

Workshops

**Trans-Montréal // Fluid Identitites: Performance in Montréal, Québec and Beyond**
September 17-18, 2015
Curator and co-director: Amelia Jones, Roski School of Art and Design, USC
Co-Director: Katie Zien, Department of English, McGill University

**Service Dogs: Between Animal Studies and Disability Studies**
October 28, 2015
Kelly Oliver, W. Alton Jones professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University

**What is the sound of organizing in Montréal?**
February 1,3 and 5, 2016
Dont Rhine, Ultra-Red Collective

**Wahkohtowin: Indigenous Masculinities and Kinship**
March 11, 2016
Seminar with Professors Kim Anderson and Rob Innes
As a part of the 5th Annual Indigenous Awareness Week, the Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies at McGill University, in association with the Canadian Women’s Foundation, presented a two-day symposium on Resisting State and Gender Violence, with keynote talks by Professor Audra Simpson, author of Mohawk Interruptus, and activist Ellen Gabriel. Panelists include:

Haidee Smith Lefebvre, Doctoral Candidate, Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University
Krysta Williams, Native Youth Sexual Health Network
Iehente Foote, National Indigenous Youth Council on HIV and AIDS
Megan Kanerahtenháwi Whyte, Kahnawake Youth Forum; National Indigenous Young Women’s Council; Skátne Ionkwatehiahróntie’
Amanda Lickers, Reclaim Turtle Island
Molly Swain, Indigenous Women’s Two Spirit and Harm Reduction Coalition
Allan Vicaire, Indigenous Education Adviser, McGill University
Paige Isaac, Coordinator, First Peoples’ House, McGill University
Chelsea Vowel, Métis Activist
Bridget Tolley, Families of Sister in Spirit
Dawn Harvard, President, Native Women’s Association of Canada
Tanya Lalonde, Family Resource Coordinator, McGill University
Sheila Swasson, National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence
Melissa Dupuis, Idle No More Quebec
Widia Larivière, Idle No More Quebec; Quebec Native Women

Professor Audra Simpson gives the opening keynote address, “We are not Red Indians (We might all be Red Indians)”

Dawn Harvard, Tanya Lalonde and Chelsea Vowel participate in a panel discussion titled “Living Histories, Activist Futures”

Activist Ellen Gabriel gives the closing keynote address, “Decolonization and Uplifting Indigenous Women and their roles in Contemporary Society”
This past September, I was honoured to be invited to speak at the IGSF’s symposium, Resisting Gendered and State Violence: Indigenous Women’s Activism. The symposium was two days of hearing Indigenous women and Two-Spirit scholars and activists speak about their lives, work, and theories. Participants spoke of their grassroots and academic work, and how both reflect their own experiences and worldviews, as well as those of their communities.

After opening with a prayer from a local Elder, the symposium was launched with a brilliant keynote from Audra Simpson, “We are Not Red Indians” (We Might All Be Red Indians): The Gender of Anticolonial Sovereignty Across the Borders of Time, Place and Sentiment. Simpson’s work disrupts state-centered approaches to reconciliation and pan-Indigenous politics in favor of nation-specific anti-colonial resistance and survivance.

The panel I was on, “Resisting Gendered Violence and Indigenous Sovereignty,” featured representatives of local youth-run groups such as the Kahnawake-based Skáteiónkwatehiahrónie’ and the Montréal-based Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Harm Reduction Coalition, as well as national initiatives such as the Native Youth Sexual Health Network and National Indigenous Youth Council on HIV and AIDS, and the internationally-known Reclaim Turtle Island.

I want to highlight this panel in particular, because it is so rare for the academy to give space exclusively to Indigenous youth organizers. Indigenous grassroots organizing pushes the boundaries of activism by drawing together common threads of theory, experience, and culture to form and inform reflexive and holistic theories which are grounded in Indigenous worldviews unconnected to the colonial state. These ideas are often either ignored or poached by those connected with the academy, so it was refreshing to see these youth activists and their work being centered.

Combining panel presentations with active learning, the weekend also featured a workshop entitled “Indigeneity: A Brief Introduction,” facilitated by Indigenous McGill staff. The importance of unlearning colonial attitudes and learning about who Indigenous peoples really are, from our own mouths, cannot be understated. This workshop also created space for questions and discussions to happen between non-Native attendees of the symposium.

The second panel, entitled “Living Histories, Activist Futures,” featured activists from the Native Women’s Association of Canada and the McGill Family Resource Center/Liberal Party of Canada. These women related their experiences from the perspective of working within institutions for the benefit of Indigenous peoples.

The final panel, entitled “Mobilizing Communities,” saw activists from the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence and Idle No More Québec speak about bridging their activist and Indigenous values to organize and build capacity within their own communities.

Finally, Ellen Gabriel closed the symposium with a keynote, “Decolonization and Uplifting Indigenous Women and Their Roles in Contemporary Society.” After hearing about some of the amazing work that Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people have been doing in their communities and across Turtle Island, this keynote underscored the central place of women in our nations and in decolonial movements.

For many of those invited to present, it was a chance for us to see old friends, hear about their latest projects, and strengthen our relationships. For me, as a recent graduate of McGill, it was empowering to see this university start to make space for Indigenous thought, theory, and activism by organizing an entirely women and Two-Spirit event that demonstrated some of the breadth and diversity of our work.
Symposium
Trans-Generations: Trans History, Health, and Politics in Montreal and Beyond
January 13, 2016

Trans-generations explored questions of trans politics, health, and history. A range of academic and community-based panelists shared their expertise and answer questions on transgender history in Montréal and beyond, intergenerational bridge-building, differences and similarities in issues facing trans youth and older trans people, and changes in political, legal, and health-related contexts for trans people over time. Trans-generations seeks to connect these questions through a broad and holistic engagement with trans histories, politics, and health, in a welcoming venue where specialists share their work in order to encourage discussion. The event approaches Trans as a term that includes a wide range of transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming identities.

Symposium
Circuits of Consumption: The Art, Activism, and Biopolitics of Food Control
January 17, 2016

The Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies (IGSF) of McGill University and Eastern Bloc were pleased to present the symposium Circuits of Consumption: The Art, Activism, and Biopolitics of Food Control. The day consisted of a keynote performative presentation and curated lunch by artist chef Lisa Myers, as well as two panel sessions. These led participants on a multi-sensory experience while they grappled with intersections of food control, eating practices, and the spaces in which this consumption occurs. The one-day event featured Montreal-based activists, artists, and academics, as well as special guests from Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Circuits of Consumption sought to understand the ways that aesthetics, food, and social justice can transform our environments and the role of activists, academics, and artists within this process.

It featured the following speakers: Lisa Myers, Shawn Bourdages and Al Harrington (The Roundhouse Café), Niamh Leonard (Santropol Roulant), Lauren Rathmel (LuFa Farm), Janis Timm-Bottos (Art Hives), Alex Ketchum (IGSF), Nadège Grebmeier-Forget, Tina Carlisi, Natalie Doonan, Navid Navad, Sonja Zlatanova, Leila Nadir and Cary Peppermint (EcoArtTech), Arcangelo Constantini (Arte+Ciencia).
This symposium brought together activists, artists and scholars working on HIV/AIDS archives, past, present, and future. Emphasizing Montreal in relation to broader histories of North American HIV/AIDS activism, the symposium considered how various media forms have been deployed toward organizing, communicating vital information, and documenting activist histories. Participants from a wide range of disciplinary orientations considered ongoing media practices—film, video, poster, visual art, performance, online archives, apps, etc.—as potential forms of knowledge mobilization that bridge activist histories with urgent questions in the present.

IGSF visiting scholar Dont Rhine kicked off the symposium with an HIV/AIDS activist listening workshop, where he shared field recordings from more than twenty years of social justice work with Los Angeles' needle exchange program. After each recording, participants were asked “What did you hear?” The workshop framed a history of HIV/AIDS activism across communities of struggle, drawing connections to housing justice and anti-poverty work.

Throughout the two-day event, speakers questioned what it means to invoke an “HIV/AIDS Archive.” Concordia’s Viviane Namaste discussed this question in relation to her research on the history of HIV/AIDS in Montreal’s Haitian community and its place in larger practices of memorializing AIDS. Karma Chávez from (University of Wisconsin at Madison) discussed the challenges of searching for an HIV/AIDS immigration archive that resists normative documentation practices. Other speakers also built on this question: Theodore Kerr (New York) shared his research on the politics of AIDS origin stories and the erasure of people of color from the ways in which the early epidemic is remembered, while Karen Herland and Ryan Conrad (both Concordia) discussed strategies for teaching HIV/AIDS histories in university classrooms.
A second theme developed through the symposium focused on contemporary forms of media production for HIV/AIDS activism. Jessica Whitbread (International Community of Women Living with HIV) discussed activism and media making by and for HIV-positive women around the world through the Love Positive Women campaign. Richard Fung (OCAD) and Cecilia Aldarondo (Skidmore College) staged a dialog about mining family archives to create film and video. Vincent Chevalier (Toronto) gave a talk on his video-based art practice while Alex McClelland (Concordia) discussed the PosterVIRUS campaign he facilitated through AIDS Action Now! Finally Claudia Mitchell, Hani Sadati, Haleh Raissadat and Katie MacEntee (all McGill) shared their research on youth and media-making in an international context. The symposium concluded with a performance lecture by Marlon Bailey (Arizona State) that shared his ethnographic work with African-American queer drag ball scenes as a form of resistance, love, and support.

For example, how are HIV/AIDS media archives working to account for the underrepresented experiences of women, trans* people, people of colour, and Indigenous people living with HIV/AIDS? The symposium takes place at a critical juncture in HIV/AIDS activism and memorialization; a recent wave of popular historicization (from HBO films to the establishment of institutional archives and oral histories projects) has perhaps overshadowed the need for wider community response to contemporary challenges such as HIV non-disclosure criminalization. This symposium seeks to shift beyond the nostalgia / presentism dichotomy to examine the archive as a site from which ongoing media practices of HIV/AIDS might be mined and enlivened.
Colloquium

Feminist Pedagogy and Professionalism - Solving Heterosexism and Sexism in Academia
March 9, 2016

The event consisted of two panel sessions that addressed the issues of sexism and heterosexism in the academy. The first panel focused on these problems in regards to job applications, search committees, bias on teaching evaluations, and a lack of representation in one's department. The second panel proffered solutions for sexism and heterosexism within a classroom setting, as panelists discussed queer, feminist, and social justice pedagogical practices. Panelists offer practical solutions to these issues that academics face as educators and as researchers.

Panelists include:
Hasana Sharp (Philosophy)
Ipek Tureli (Architecture)
Susan Gaskin (Engineering)
Lynn Kozak (History and Classics)
Robert Lecky (Law)
Brian Martin (French and Comparative Literature)
Jessica Ruglis (Educational and Counselling Psychology)
Marc Ducusin (English and Sexual Diversity Studies)
Shannon Fitzpatrick (History)
Rachel Zellars (Education)
Alanna Thain (English, World Cinemas, IGSF Director)
Alex Ketchum (History)

Colloquium

Honor's Thesis and Graduate Research Colloquium
April 5, 2016

This interdisciplinary Feminist Research Colloquium was an opportunity for students to present their research. Presenters included Ayanna Dozier, Kyrstin Felts, Alice Gauntley, Sarah Gelbard, Richenda Grazette, Eden Haber, Julia Hensley, Itzel Danae Maldonado Dorantes, Milka Nyariro, Cadence O’Neal, Lucie Robathan, Julia Robertson, Sara Sebti, Paris Swanson, and Ali Webster.
Last winter, I taught Critical Race Feminism for IGSF, a course I designed to center the foundations of intersectionality and critical race theory through the work and activism of Black women in North America. I also wanted to frame the histories of Black women resisting gendered and state violence, often simultaneously, in a way that highlighted how failures to reckon with intra-community gendered violence historically has often undone the best of Black radical institutions and its intellectual traditions. In light of the groundbreaking work of #blacklivesmatter, a Black radical movement fueled by the labor and accountability work of visible Black queers, I also wanted to attempt a new syntax for understanding the relationship between Black nationalism as a radical site of knowledge production and gendered violence in the course. In other words, what would it mean, I asked, to fully center gendered violence well within the historical traditions of Black nationalism--that is, as a fundamental syntax within its organizing politic?

We did that. We need more of it. And, as I learned, when we do it, we need to do it right. “Right” looks like this in the context of our feminisms:

1. When we name “intersectionality,” Black queer women must be named first. And not just Kimberlé Crenshaw, but first, the Combahee River Collective, who rigorously characterized our “interlocking oppressions” nearly two decades before Crenshaw put a title to the organizing work Black women, like Ida B. Wells, have been doing intuitively since the 19th century. This naming is important because of the ways the intellectual labor of Black queer women has been historically obliterated within intra-community analyses of radical Black politics, and also, as Sirma Bilge has shown, because of the ways mainstream white feminists have swallowed up Black women’s work. We have to do better.

2. We also, as I was reminded last term, have to do better intentionally creating classroom spaces that know how to hold the bodies and stories of gendered violence that exist within them. Importantly, if we are bringing the topic of gendered violence to the classroom, these spaces must be intentionally prepared. During my course section on gendered violence and the challenges of community accountability, a student revealed her father as her rapist openly in class. This was her first time ever sharing this information publicly, and I was grateful that we had already spent a good deal of time crafting a set of agreements for us to decide how we would discuss and hold gendered violence in the class in anticipation of such intense moments. A willingness to engage material or conversations about gendered violence in a McGill classroom must come with an understanding of how to shape the space so personal trauma is not compounded. It must also entail a commitment to communicate love and care to students living with histories of sexual trauma and incest in the classroom who never speak it. They are always there with us.

3. Finally, we have to do better supporting students who come to us with a bevy of mental and emotional wellness needs. It is possible to encourage students to excellence and to support our students in ways that allow them to make it through the term. In the first week of class, I was approached by a student who had recently been raped. Arriving at McGill from a newcomer, religiously conservative family out of province, she needed support to avoid failing out of school while coping with everything that barrages a mind hollow in the months following a sexual assault that will likely never hold its attacker accountable. She had no intention of ever telling her mother. She needed to finish her term in good standing. She missed a good deal of class due to her increasing anxiety, but showed up to office hours and engaged the readings for the class beautifully. Over time, her anxiety lessened and her eyes visibly communicated her healing. She is writing her final paper over the summer.
This past term I taught a new graduate course, titled “Media Dissent--Theory and Practice,” as part of an international collaborative teaching experiment among a small group of professors and students studying social activism, media and technology. The course was something of an experiment with my graduate teaching. In addition to building a collaborative teaching practice with three other professors at different universities, collaboration was a key element of what my students and I studied, conceptualized, and did together with others. The course drew students from 7 different fields: Communication Studies, Game Studies, Music, Dance, Art History, French, Hispanic Studies, and Social Work. The result was one of the most cross-disciplinary courses I have taught.

I worked with Anne Balsamo at the New School for Social Research, Anita Chan at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and Diana Mincyte at CUNY College of Technology in New York City to develop a set of practices for collaborating together across our different courses. Diana taught a 2nd year undergrad course, “Science, Technology & Self;” Anne taught an MA-level course “Understanding Media Studies;” and Anita taught a graduate level course “Co-Design: Collaboration, Networks, Global Media” that ended up being quite closely linked with my own course, through a number of shared readings, course activities and simultaneous meetings.

As teachers, we developed our strategies of collaboration under the rubric of FemTechNet, a feminist digital pedagogies network that creates courses on gender, feminism and technology. FemTechNet’s members have created a distributed, open, collaborative course model, or DOCC, aligned with key feminist principles of pedagogy. A DOCC is not a MOOC; it is an alternative to the one-way educational model of the massive open online course. My course focused on theories and practices of media dissent around a number of social movement contexts and diverse media practices, with a particular emphasis on social and mobile media. Our goal was to develop critical ways of conceptualizing, examining, and exploring the inter-relationship between making and sharing media and doing activism. I designed the course readings and activities around the study of this inter-relationship between making media and doing activism, from various modes of DIY practices, craftivism and critical making to hashtag politics, Tumblr activisms and other distributed models of collective agency. In addition to reading current theory and scholarship, we also read activist publications, media texts, artifacts and popular activist education materials, including the Radical Education Workbook, and Ultra Red, the activist sound art collective, among others. Through these texts and practices we explored what it means to enact accountability, responsibility, solidarity and allyship in social activism, and its radical pedagogies.

Inspired by Anita Chan’s course on collaboration, I also radically rethought my expectations for what kind of work students should do in a graduate seminar. I modified a prior assignment Anita had used where students built a course syllabus as their main piece of work for the term. Instead of having my students create a full syllabus, they each developed a 3-hour course module that required them to work with a collaborator. I encouraged students to draw on existing collaborative relationships, such that the assignment could be useful to an organization they worked with or to teaching other students how to develop key skills. Four students in the course collaborated with each other. Everyone else established, or more accurately, re-defined, a collaborative working relationship as part of their project. Over the course, several students discovered that they were already doing collaborative work with others; they had just not conceived of it as collaboration. Collaboration is not something that can (nor should) be forced. It raises important questions about sustaining equitable relationships between collaborators, openly negotiating divisions of labour, coming to agreement on how credit for their shared labour will work, among other things. The ethics of collaboration were, by necessity, front and center in our discussions.
Dont Rhine co-founded the international sound art collective Ultra-red in 1994. He serves on the advisory board of the needle-exchange program, L.A. Community Health Project (formerly Clean Needles Now), which he co-founded in 1992 while a member of the Los Angeles chapter of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). He attended the Whitney Independent Study Program in 1994-95 and in 2006 received his MFA from UCLA in Interdisciplinary Studio with artist, Mary Kelly. Dont has received fellowships from California Community Foundation in 2007 and from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs in 2010. Dont is co-facilitator of the Los Angeles branch of Ultra-red’s mentorship program, School of Echoes, as well as co-founder of the L.A. Tenants Union. He lives in Hollywood.

Ultra-red are a sound art collective founded in 1994 by two Los Angeles AIDS activists. Today, with twelve members in Germany, United States, and the U.K., Ultra-red conduct research embedded within social movements. Sound and listening are the medium and the site of inquiry. Ultra-red have released dozens of albums, published numerous texts, and conducted workshops around the world. Ultra-red have received commissions and residencies with the Department of Interior of Ireland (2003); Raven Row Gallery (2009) and Serpentine Gallery, London (2009-2013); Arika, Scotland (2009-2012); Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School, New York (2010); Fritt Ord Institute, Oslo (2010); Akademie der Künste der Welt, Cologne (2014); and the Social Practice Art Research Center at U.C. Santa Cruz (2013-2015).

Born and raised in Canada, Dr Wendy Cumming-Potvin is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Education, Murdoch University in Western Australia. A recipient of a Vice-Chancellor’s award for excellence in teaching, Wendy coordinates graduate courses about research methods and literacies. Focusing on literacies and human rights, Wendy is a qualitative researcher with a strong interest in LGBTQI+ topics, gender democratisation, teacher education and technology. Wendy is chief investigator of a Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre project, which is funded by the Australian government, a consortium of universities and approximately 80 community organizations. Through literacy and technology, the study aims to develop inclusive and safe schools for all students, highlighting the need for LGBTQI+ friendly curricula. Wendy is also a research collaborator for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) project, headed by Professor Wayne Martino (University of Western Ontario). This multi-site study examines policies and practices of gender democratisation and transgender equality in Ontario, California, Colorado and Western Australia.
Lisa Henderson is Professor of Communication, recent past Chair of the Department of Communication, and Affiliate Faculty in American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. Her research and teaching interests include cultural production, sexual representation, feminist media studies, and cultural studies of social class, with essays in a number of collections and such journals as Feminist Media Studies, GLQ, International Journal of Communication, Journal of Communication, Key Words: A Journal of Cultural Materialism, and Screen. Her recent book, Love and Money: Queers, Class and Cultural Production (NYU Press, 2013) argues that we can’t understand contemporary queer cultures without looking through the lens of social class.

In 2011, Henderson received the Roy F. Aarons Award for Outstanding Contribution to GLBT Education and Research from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Her new work looks at collaborations between cultural scholars and artists, at friendship as a political form, and the relationship between cultural participation and thriving.

Brian Martin is Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature at Williams College in western Massachusetts (USA), where he teaches courses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century French and Scandinavian literature and film. Martin’s research focuses broadly on gender and sexuality in France, and on Nordic masculinities from Scandinavia to Québec. He is the author of the book *Napoleonic Friendship: Military Fraternity, Intimacy, and Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century France* (2011), a history of queer soldiers in the French military, from Napoleon to the First World War. Among other prominent reviews, the book was praised by the American Historical Association as “a remarkable contribution to historical, literary, military, and queer studies,” and by *H-France Review* as “the postmodern military history that Foucault never wrote.” Nominated for a Lambda Literary Prize in 2012, *Napoleonic Friendship* was awarded the Laurence Wylie Prize in French Cultural Studies in 2013.

As the Muriel Gold Visiting Professor at the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at McGill University, Martin is working on a new book project, tentatively titled *Queer Lumber: Forest Fraternity, Masculinity, and Sexuality from Loggers to Lumbersexuals*. In *Queer Lumber*, he argues that northern loggers and lumbermen are iconographic figures of both Northern European and North American masculinity, fraternal intimacy, and homoerotic sexuality.
During my 2015-2016 sabbatical year from Williams College, where I am Professor of French and Comparative Literature, I was both honored and delighted to spend the year as the Muriel Gold Visiting Professor at the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, here at McGill. It was inspiring to take part in so many engaging events and to meet so many wonderful students, colleagues, and scholars.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity that this year at the IGSF and McGill gave me to work on my book project. Tentatively titled *Queer Lumber*, my new book project looks at a largely unexamined figure of homoerotic sexuality: the northern logger or lumberman. Alternately venerated as a heroic *bûcheron* or parodied as a bumbling *lumberjack*, the logger is an icon of both Northern European and North American masculinity. From Francophone Europe to colonial New France, for example, a rich tradition of lumber literature can be found in the frontier tales of explorers, trappers, and *coureurs de bois*. As the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century fur trade gave way to the nineteenth- and twentieth-century lumber industry, Québécois folktales shifted their focus from *trappeurs* to *bûcherons*, and inspired an entire genre of texts on forest fraternity, from popular logging lore to *romans du terroir*. As Québécois woodsmen migrated to the lumber camps of New England, the Midwest, and the Pacific Coast, they brought this oral and literary tradition, spreading tall tales of lumber legends (like Paul Bunyan) from Québec’s Lac des Deux Montagnes to the Great Lakes and the North American imagination. In *Queer Lumber*, I want to argue that the logger is—like his cowboy cousin—an iconographic figure of North American manhood, male intimacy, and masculine sexuality, whose most recent descendants include both queer *bears* and urban *lumbersexuals*. Through readings of both historical and literary texts, I attempt in this book to trace a history of this homosocial (and at times homoerotic) life among men in the forest.

In addition to exploring the resources of McGill’s McLennan Library, the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, the Archives gaies du Québec, and the Archives Passe-Mémoire, I spent 12 months doing field research in Mauricie with a man who worked for over 20 years in the logging camps of northern Québec. This field work (which I hope will grow into a larger project on Québécois queer history) grew out of my talk at the *Journée d'études sur les sources autobiographiques et les écrits de soi*, a June colloquium hosted by UQÀM at the beginning of my sabbatical year, organized by McGill History Professor Emerita Andrée Lévesque.

I am enormously grateful to so many people at the IGSF and McGill who made this year possible, and who offered a warm welcome, practical support, and scholarly inspiration. I particularly want to thank Carrie Rentschler and Alanna Thain for their great hospitality and fabulous leadership as directors of the IGSF. I want to thank Iain Blair, Kim Reany, Claire Michela, and Ayesha Vemuri for all of their hard work, expertise, and support. And I want to thank Mary Bunch, Cait McKinney, Robert Leckey, and Andrée Lévesque for their inspiring scholarship, mentorship, and friendship. Merci à tous d’une année merveilleuse!
STUDENT AWARDEES
WINNERS OF IGSF STUDENT AWARDS IN 2015-16

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS

Lucie Lastinger, Sheila Finestone Award

Lucie Lastinger is a U3 Anthropology and Gender, Sexuality, Feminist and Social Justice Studies student, completing an honors thesis regarding Mormon polygamy in Canada and the U.S. Their research focuses on the intersections of religiosity and sexuality, exploring the ways non-normative sexualities are negotiated within spiritual frameworks. Beyond this, Lucie is particularly interested in trans issues and social justice education. In their free time, they have also developed a passion for sewing, embroidery, and quilting.

"Thank you to the IGSF for honoring me with the Sheila Finestone award! I want to thank all the folks at the IGSF and the Union for Gender Empowerment who have supported me and made my time at McGill so rewarding."

Cadence O’Neal, Peta Tancred Award

Cadence O’Neal recently graduated with an Honours degree in Women’s Studies. Her honours thesis, "Feminist Forces, Colonial Collusions: A Discourse Analysis of Settler Feminism and the Canadian Forces" focuses on ongoing settler feminist complicity in militarism and settler colonialism through the examination of contemporary military recruitment advertisements. Outside of the classroom, Cadence is actively involved in campaigns against university-military collaboration, and much of her academic work is informed by her desire to “demilitarize McGill,” and the lessons she has learned through that campaign. Her other academic interests include queer theoretical interventions into consent discourse, and the history of opposition to weapons research at McGill University.

GRADUATE AWARD WINNER

Milka Nyariro, Sheila Finestone Award

Milka Nyariro is a first year PhD student in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University. She holds a Master and Bachelors in Anthropology from the University of Nairobi. Her research interest is interdisciplinary and is on Gender Violence in schools and Education system in Kenya. Specifically, Milka focuses on systemic and symbolic forms of gender violence that act as barriers to re-entering and continuing with school for girls who have dropped out of school in poor urban contexts in Nairobi, Kenya.


SPECIAL THANKS TO PAST AND PRESENT IGSF STAFF AND STUDENT WORKERS

Claire Michela, Former Student Affairs and Administrative Coordinator
Iain Blair, Former Director of Communications
Kim Reany, Acting Director of Communications
Andrew Folco, Student Affairs and Administrative Coordinator
Kate Whiteway, Work/Study Student
Ayesha Vemuri, Work/Study Student