



A Word From the Director

On February 4th, a man who contributed significantly to the city of Montreal and the province of Quebec, Mr. Jacques Ménard, passed away. It is rare for an academic to praise a banker. However, Mr. Ménard was much more than a simple banker. He was constantly looking for individuals and projects that could benefit the common good; he fed them with his ideas and offered them his support. We first met him in 2014, at the BMO offices. CIRM had been physically established since 2013 but its financial means were modest. We presented Mr. Ménard and his team with our vision of a centre that stimulates and brings together multidisciplinary research on Montreal, and puts this research at the service of the citizens. Jacques Ménard answered favourably to our demand and trusted us. BMO gave its support to CIRM in the wake of Je Fais Montréal, a movement orchestrated by Jacques Ménard. Since 2018, thanks to this support, CIRM now has the ability to bolster research in Montreal studies by offering a scholarship (see the section below), and to support local partners in projects that require specialized interdisciplinary teams. It should be noted that Mr. Ménard never attempted to interfere in the centre's governance and that BMO gives our team an unfettered freedom of action. We work, alongside our executive committee and all our members, McGillians and non-McGillians alike, to achieve the vision shared with Mr. Ménard of a city where universities fully participate in urban, cultural and economic development, and are credited for what they are: drivers of innovation and social transformation.

We wish to express our gratitude to Jacques Ménard (1946-2020) and, to his family and friends, our most sincere condolences.

Pascal Brissette,

News



Smart Cities Challenge: CIRM Appointed Coordinator of the Social Data Hub

Since last December, CIRM started its work as coordinator for the Social Data Hub (SDH), together with its partners: the [Direction régionale de la santé publique de Montréal](#), [Centraide of Greater Montreal](#), the [Foundation of Greater Montreal](#) and the [Service de la diversité et de l'inclusion de la Ville de Montréal](#). SDH aims to create a technological tool that will facilitate access to and analysis of data, particularly regarding food security in Montreal. To learn more about it, follow our social media and visit our [Web page dedicated to the SDH and the Observatory of Montreal's Narratives](#).

Call For Applications



BMO Postdoctoral Fellowship

CIRM is seeking applications from emerging researchers that focus on Montreal and the city, in order to award a fellowship for the year 2020-2021. The deadline for applications is March 9th. [Follow this link](#) if you would like to learn more about eligibility criteria for the fellowship.

CIRM-AIÉQ Mobility Grants

Designed to facilitate mobility and stimulate research on Montreal, these mobility grants are offered jointly with the [Association internationale des études québécoises](#) to CIRM members wishing to participate in a scientific activity, either in Quebec or outside the province. The deadline is March 7th. [Follow this link](#) for more information.

Gorka Espiau Comes to Montreal

CIRM's Professor of Practice from 2016 to 2019, [Gorka Espiau](#), will be in Montreal from March 30th to April 6th. He will participate as a panelist at the CIRM's seminar around the collective work *De la ville intelligente à la ville intelligente*, which will take place on April 6th, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. He will also contribute to the *Urban Innovation and Creativity* seminar, offered jointly by [Richard Shearmur](#) (McGill U. / CIRM) and [Jayne Engle](#) (McGill U. / McConnell) at the McGill School of Urban Planning



Our Team Is Growing!



Elissa Kayal - Administrative Assistant and McConnell Professor of Practice Program Coordinator

Elissa Kayal is completing an enriched specialization in Literary Studies at the McGill Département des littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création ([DLTC](#)), as well as a minor in Theology. Her interests include the intersection between philosophy and literature, as well as creative essay writing. In her free time, Elissa enjoys writing, cooking and wandering in the city.



Karolina Roman - Editorial Assistant

Karolina Roman is a translator and recent graduate from the McGill Département des littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création (DLTC). She currently works as a translator and proof-reader, studies Polish and Russian, and will start a Master's degree in Translation Studies in September 2020. She is interested by contact zones between languages - hence her interest in Montreal - particularly in transcultural translation.

Julie Levasseur - Community Manager

Previously trained in journalist, and, briefly in public relations, Julie Levasseur is a Master's candidate at the McGill Département des littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création (DLTC). Apart from writing her thesis in literary translation, she represents the Postgraduate Students' Society on the McGill committee for the promotion of French, organizes events for the Association des étudiant·e·s en littératures de langue française, en traduction et en création inscrit·e·s aux études supérieures ([ADELFIES](#)), and advocates for climate justice.





CIRM Welcomes New Members

[Julie Rijpens](#), [Sonia Cancian](#), and [Licia Soares de Souza](#) have joined CIRM as international members, respectively in the research-action axes "Economy, social innovation, and social transformation", "Immigration, living conditions, and religion", and "Digital culture, art, literature, and performance". The centre is also proud to welcome Alexandre Maltais as resident scholar for a project on the management of Montreal's public markets and the role of major public property halls in the city.

Upcoming Events

CIRM Seminars

Climate in the Age of Empire: Weather Observers in Colonial Canada

March 18, 2020 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Climate observations and meteorological history are some of the themes that will be discussed in this event with author [Victoria Slonosky](#) (CIRM / McGill U.). For more information, visit [our website](#).

CIRM SEMINAR
UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE
FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY
WITH VICTORIA SLONOSKY
MARCH 18, 2020 / 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
680 SHERBROOKE ST. WEST, 8th FLOOR
ESPACE MONTRÉAL

CLIMATE
IN THE
AGE OF EMPIRE

CIRM
CRIEM

CIRM SEMINAR
DE LA VILLE INTELLIGENTE À LA VILLE
INTELLIGIBLE
WITH NICOLAS MERVILLE
AND JEAN-FRANÇOIS GAGNÉ
APRIL 6, 2020 / 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
680 SHERBROOKE ST. WEST, 8th FLOOR
ESPACE MONTRÉAL

De la ville
intelligente à
la ville intelligente

CIRM
CRIEM

De la ville intelligente à la ville intelligible

April 6, 2020 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This seminar, which will welcome authors [Nicolas Merveille](#) (UQAM) and [Jean-François Gagné](#) (Element AI), as well as [Gorka Espiau](#), will address the conflict between individual integrity and capitalist development in the urban context. More details to come.

Us versus Them. Race, Crime and Gentrification: a Montreal-Chicago Comparison

April 17, 2020 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This event will provide an opportunity to discuss gentrification and racial dynamics in a comparative perspective between Montreal and Chicago. The recent book [*Us versus Them. Race, Crime and Gentrification in Chicago Neighborhoods*](#), written by [Jan Doering](#) (CIRM/McGill U.) will guide the discussion.



Montreal as Seen by...

A conference series organized by the McGill Quebec Studies Students Association (QSSA) and supported by CIRM.



Source: [National](#)

John Parisella

March 23, 2020 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[John Parisella](#) will visit CIRM to share his experience and vision of Quebec's metropolis. Political columnist at *La Presse* and *Maclean's*, Mr. Parisella has occupied numerous political positions throughout his career, including director general of the Quebec Liberal Party. He is currently Senior Advisor of business outreach at [National](#), and Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science of the Université de Montréal.

RSVP to stephan.gervais@mcgill.ca



Souleymane Guissé

Date to be determined

Discover Montreal through the eyes of the [Montreal Intercultural Council](#)'s (MIC) President. Since 2013, the MIC advises the City Council and the Executive Committee of Montreal on all matters related to intercultural relationships. It further carries out research and commission studies on urban issues such as social inclusion and equal access to employment. More details to come.





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