

Colloquia Series – March 30 and April 6 2017

Location: 140 McLaughlin College

Urs Axel Georg Dierker

- **Time:** March 30, 2017 - 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM
- **Title:** The Language of Dirt in Film: Stain and Patina in North American Mainstream Film

Abstract:

Evaluation of the transfer of meaning of artificial texture as a vehicle for cultural significance on film costumes, from the design and making process of the object, to the film images, to the costume display as artifacts.

Alexandra Fox

- **Time:** March 30, 2017 – 11:50 AM – 12:40 PM
- **Title:** When Saving the World Isn't Your Day Job: Preliminary Findings from a Study of Intersectional Environmental Activism and Madness

Abstract: As the threat of environmental destruction grows larger, and modern activism retreats into individualistic forms of protest, the collective agency that activists feel with respect to their ability to create change has greatly decreased. In recent years, my work as a feminist and environmental activist triggered a relapse into depression, and an onset of chronic anxiety and PTSD. Upon sharing this difficult experience with fellow activists, it became increasingly clear that burnout, depression, guilt, trauma, existential crises, and anxiety are common in this circle of radicals. *When Saving the World Isn't Your Day Job* is an attempt at understanding the intersections of radical, anti-capitalist activism and madness. After reviewing similar studies and identifying the gaps in research on this topic, I will share preliminary data from our recent study conducted in 2016/2017. By researching and sharing results on the relationship between this type of activism and madness, I hope to shed light on the unique experiences faced by those fighting these intersecting oppressive systems. By raising awareness and increasing conversations within intersectional, anti-capitalist activist communities on the epidemic of madness both inside and outside their organizing, we strengthen our community's ability to fight capitalism and the omnipresent threats of fascism.

"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." —

Audre Lorde

Hana Gartner

- **Time:** March 30, 2017 - 12:45 PM to 1:30 PM

Abstract:

Why and how animals, specifically horses, can not only reduce stress responses in humans, but also help relieve pain and suffering, both psychological and physiological. This study examines the correlation between horse and human heart rates recorded during equine assisted learning sessions in order to further understand the benefits of human- animal interaction.

Sam Aria

- **Time:** March 30, 2017 – 1:30 PM to 2:15 PM
- **Title:**

Abstract

Vituja Vijayakanthan

- **Time:** March 30 , 2017- 2:15 PM to 3:00 PM
- **Title**

Abstract

Gillian Von Langsdorff

- **Time:** March 30, 2017 - 3.00 PM - 3:45 PM
- **Title:** The Exodus of the Coloured South African: A Study of Embodied Racialization

Abstract

This presentation will deal with the Coloured South African diaspora who emigrated to Canada at the height of Apartheid (1960-1970) and reside in the Toronto area. Apartheid was a multifaceted, virulent form of racism affecting every aspect of non-white lives (Coloured and Black). Coloureds however held the intermediary position between the Black majority and ruling White minority. Classified as what they “were not”, neither Black enough nor white enough, with the stigma of being mixed race and bearing derogatory attributes, they were also severely marginalized in South African society. The plight of those classified as Coloured is therefore very unique. This thesis examines the impact of forced exile on racialized/racial identity and self identification amongst the Coloured community. Asserted is that Coloured self identification, fostered in South Africa, remains *relatively* unchanged to the present time and continues to impact Coloured lives long after their emigration due to the embodiment of such a severe form of racialization under apartheid.

Baldev Mutta

- **Time:** April 6, 2017 – 11:00 AM to 11:45 PM
- **Title:** *Critical Analysis of Mainstream Alcohol Addiction recovery Models for the Punjabi Community*

Abstract:

As in other communities, Punjabi community also has to deal with the treatment of alcohol related problems. There are a number of alcohol addiction treatment recovery models which are used by the mainstream agencies to treat clients with addiction problems. The proposal looks at the relevance and appropriateness of these models in relation to the Punjabi addiction clients. The Punjabi culture is a collectivist culture and the treatment models are grounded in individualistic cultures and how does this interaction play out on the ground. Are the treatment systems sufficiently addressing the barriers such as culture, language, religion, acculturation, and the involvement of the family. I would propose a culturally appropriate model of treatment which could enhance the treatment of Punjabi addiction clients.

Robert McKnight

- **Time:** Apr. 6, 2017 - 11:50am – 12:35 PM
- **Title:** *The York/UHN iPod Project*

Abstract:

An interventional research study that measures the impact of preferred music on quality of life (QOL) on in-hospital post-transplant patients. The study compares self-reported QOL measurement indicators using the EQ5D QOL health survey between the study and control populations, and also integrates empirical physiological measurements for comparison.

Ruth-Anne Andrew

- **Time:** April 6, 2017 – 12:45 PM -1:30:00 PM
- **Title:** Becoming dancers: Exploring the experience of dance for disabled young adults

Abstract:

Community dance classes have provided an entry point into the world of dance for many disabled people and other individuals who may not otherwise ever consider dancing. Research into the health benefits of dance is continuing to find a multitude of reasons for encouraging people of all ages and abilities to engage in regular dance programs. There are many physical, cognitive, and mental health benefits that would greatly improve the quality of life of disabled individuals of all ages. As the parent of two physically and developmentally disabled children who became accomplished dancers, I understand both the value of dance and its inaccessibility to disabled individuals. As co-founder and Program Director of Dancers with PD in Cambridge, ON, I observed substantial improvements and even complete transformations in participants' temperaments. I intend to use qualitative and quantitative measures to assess the impact of a weekly dance class designed for a population of disabled young adults.

Loferne Cuffy

- **Time:** April 6, 2017 - 1:30 PM to 2:15 PM
- **Title:** Investigating the Bio-Psychosocial Effects of Compounded Trauma on Black Women's Mental Health: A Study of Two Localities in Ontario, Canada

Abstract

Mental health is today a highly topical issue, and for a good reason. Numerous recent studies indicate that mental health is a primary determinant of a society's success. Many of these studies tell us, for example, that mental health issues such as depression, post traumatic stress disorder, alcohol and substance abuse are all on the rise and that these problems have drastic effects on people's capacity to function optimally. What I find lacking in these studies, however is a focused discussion on how *Black women* in Canada are affected by and cope with these problems. A big part of the reason for this 'lack', I contend, is that Black women's mental health concerns are too often unrevealed or, even when revealed, remain largely misunderstood. Indeed, even those few well-intentioned studies attempting to make light of Black women's experiences seem to fall short, a shortfall that I strongly believe is inevitable so long as these studies ignore the fact that the Black woman's bio-psychology has been profoundly (/historically) conditioned by what has been called "the slave experience". The slave experience, as I elaborate in what follows, is constitutive of a number of salient (and today paradigmatic) forces, including but not limited to institutionalized racism, co-dependency and multigenerational trauma.

Maxwell Randsinghe

- **Time:** April 6, 2017 – 2:15 PM to 3:00 PM
- **Title:** Chronic Kidney Disease Unidentified (CKDu) in Sri Lanka: Towards an integrated response

Abstract

In the mid-1990s, Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) was discovered by the Ministry of Health among the paddy farmers in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. In the two decades, since its discovery, the disease has spread to other neighboring farming areas. Numerous studies on CKDu issue have found multiple causes for this disease incidence and still the quest to identify the exact causes is underway. The Sri Lankan Government has taken various measures to address the CKDu crisis. However, not much has taken place on the ground as different groups propose different plans from their own disciplinary milieu. My thesis is that the interventions made by the government are haphazard and top down approaches. The problem is inter-connected to different domains and many stakeholders are involved. In search of an integrated solution to the issue, I have conducted an interdisciplinary research to find out what has taken place and what are the view points and suggestions of different stakeholders through interviewing different stakeholders to the issue ranging from village level to top government officers. I hope to discuss my findings and how am I going to propose an integrated solution

Emmanuel Osaze

Time: April 6, 2017 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

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