

Tri-University Graduate Program in History Annual Report 2008-9

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Director

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The Tri-University Graduate Program in History had a year of consolidation in 2008-9, implementing the major structural changes of the previous year. The first cohort passed through the revised PhD program, the new promotional campaign was launched, the second internationally-attended Tri-University History Program Conference was held, the University of Guelph joined the new MA registration system and the work of the Tri-University Graduate Students' Association expanded. Major new demands were placed on the program in terms of funding for travel and conferencing activity, a wonderful testament to the energy of our students. Applications for 2009-10 remained high, increasing at the PhD level and falling slightly at the MA. Because of financial uncertainty in 2009, the universities were slower in sending out official acceptances and so, as of this moment, we are still unsure of our final acceptance ratios. This issue and the other program initiatives will be reviewed below:

A. The Year in Review:

1. Inaugurating the revised PhD Program:

PhD program revision was undertaken in order to streamline, simplify and focus the doctoral program in keeping with the recommendations of the OCGS appraisers' report of 2007. The new program requirements are modeled around a four year-to-completion degree and they include a number of novel provisions, such as a teaching practicum, a colloquium, a single year of field work and a streamlined major field exam structure.

All but two of the pre-comprehensive exam members of the 2006-7 and 2007-8 cohorts switched to the new program in spring 2008 and sat the first set of major field exams in the fall. The program accepted its largest PhD cohort in 2008-9 (18 students) and these students are currently completing their field course work. We are especially pleased that virtually the entire cohort will complete its fieldwork by the end of their first year of study and is ready to move on to exams in September 2009. For these students, what formerly took two years to complete has been finished in one.

The new Professional Development Seminar also enjoyed its trial run in 2008-9 and student feedback has been extremely positive. The entire 2008-9 cohort completed the Seminar in the first year of study.

The 2007-8 cohort is currently preparing thesis proposals which are due to their committees by the end of April 2009.

2. MA Pre-registration System

The Tri-University MA-course Pre-registration system was inaugurated in May 2008. It allowed students at the three universities to pre-register on the same day for courses at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. Although its launch was not glitch-free, it did succeed in fostering far greater student mobility among the campuses than ever before. The on-line registration system has been revised and updated and will be used again to register students in May and October 2009. The University of Guelph will join the other two institutions in pre-registering students in its courses in May. For 2009-10 we are moving to two pre-registration periods, one for Fall and one for Winter courses.

3. MA summer Course

The Tri-University Program will launch its first team-taught MA seminars in summer 2009. The courses are designed to allow students in course stream to finish program requirements in three consecutive terms and three consecutive-term MRP stream students to reduce course loads in fall and winter terms. One third of the classes will be taught on each campus. At time of writing, twelve students are enrolled in each of the seminars, which begin 5 May 2009.

4. Advertising and Promotion

The Tri-University program expanded the scope of its multi-dimensional, centrally-coordinated advertising and promotional campaign in 2008. Existing poster advertising and our one-page handouts were sent out to all Canadian universities and were featured at university recruiting fairs. A digital advertisement was sent out to history departments in English speaking countries for distribution to students and the same ad was sent out to departmental history clubs. A new set of postcard advertisements promoting different areas in the program was also created and sent out to all Canadian history departments for distribution. The first three postcards covered the research areas of Cold War History, Medieval History and Global History. The program plans to expand the postcards to cover three more areas in 2009-10 and to redesign its one-page handout.

5. Tri-University Conference

The Tri-University Conference has been held annually for 15 years. It provides a forum for the program's graduate students and faculty to present papers and discuss their research. The conference also operates as an advertisement for the program, attracting visitors and potential students from area universities. This year the conference organizer (Susan Neylan, WLU) placed the call for papers on H-Net (the leading website for academic historians) and several other conferencing sites and we receive proposals from a large number of non-Canadian students and faculty. Ultimately, one half of the 39 papers were presented by students and faculty from outside the Tri-University program, roughly half of those (10) were presented by international scholars from Europe, Asia and South America. We hope to sustain this proportion of non-TriU to TriU presentations as it balances opportunities for our students to present with a context for their work. The keynote address at the conference was delivered by Roderick MacFarquhar, the Leroy B. Williams Professor of History and Political Science and retired Director of the John King Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University. One hundred and thirty faculty, students and guests attended this year's conference.

6. Recruiting

The Tri-University program recruits intensively. Our goal is to process applications quickly and to be the first offer made to successful applicants. All applications to the program are reviewed by an admissions committee made up of the director and the three graduate officers. No offers are made without the approval of all three graduate officers. Electronic offers are sent out by the individual graduate officers and the director telephones all students admitted to explain to them the distinct features and advantages of our program. Supervisors then contact their potential students to express interest in the students' projects. The graduate officers and director follow up with additional communications. It is a time-consuming and labor intensive process and it depends on our speed in assembling, processing and following up on applications. The graduate officers in the program work extremely hard to ensure the success of the process, they work wonderfully well together, share all information on funding and admissions and devote countless hours to recruiting.

6.1 2009-10 Admission Targets

The History Departments at the University of Waterloo and the University of Guelph both moved in 2009 to lower the number of admissions from 2008 levels. So many students had been admitted in 2008 and so many were continuing in the program that both departments felt they needed to consolidate. PhD targets at those two institutions were lowered from a total of 16 to 9. MA targets were adjusted slightly from 45 to 38. WLU proposed steady-state in its admissions at the MA level and an increase in PhD admissions from two to three..

6.2 2009-10 Recruiting

For the 2008-9 academic year we received 169 applications (127 MA and 32 PhD); for the 2009-10 academic year we received 150 applications (109 MA and 41 PhD). Although the rise in PhD applications is gratifying, the decline in the number of MA applications is a cause of concern. The online application system launched at the University of Waterloo in winter 2008-9 slowed the speed at which we were able to process applications. There were delays in the issuing of official offers of admission. This was all less significant at the PhD level because the numbers are smaller and contact is more consistent and individualized. At the MA level, however, we found a dramatic increase in competition for students.

6.3 2009-10 Admissions

Ultimately, 66 MA and 15 PhD offers were extended. We received 45 MA and 10 PhD acceptances and 15 MA and 5 PhD rejections. The MA acceptance rate was 60-70%, a decline from the 80-90% acceptance rate of 2008. At UW and UG, PhD the PhD acceptance rate on offers was 80%; Laurier saw its first 3 PhD offers rejected. Responding quickly to this disappointing result, Laurier raised the level of its financial offers to approximate those of the other two institutions, resulting in success in its last

two PhD offers.

7. Tri-University Graduate Students Association

In the spring of 2008, graduate students at the three institutions met together and drafted a constitution creating the first students association covering the three campuses. The association held its founding meeting in March 2008 and an executive was elected and the constitution approved. In April, the new organization hosted its first event, which included faculty presentations and a visiting lecture by Professor Steven Penfold of the University of Toronto. It has since undertaken a number of social and academically-focused activities, including skating parties, movie nights and a student speaker series. The association appears to be off to a fabulous start and it promises to become a focus of inter-university activity and graduate student identification.

8. Success of Tri-University Students

It was an outstanding year for Tri-University's students. Appendix A contains a list of major external award holders in 2008-9 and Appendix B lists student conference and publication activity. More than 10 scholarly articles published and 53 papers were delivered by our students in 2008-9. The program funded travel to Canadian conferences for 3 MA and 6 PhD students and to international conferences for 6 PhD and 1 MA student.

B. Directions for 2009-10

1. Fund raising

External fund raising is a priority if the program is to continue to grow and attract the finest applicants. Among targets for fund raising are international student scholarships and fee-waivers, student research and travel fellowships and funds to support collaborative faculty research. The director met with University Development officers at UW and WLU in fall 2008 to design a strategy for fund-raising. Following on recommendations made at UW, material has been prepared on program alumni for a direct mailing campaign. Collecting the material we needed has taken longer than anticipated because the necessary records were not traditionally centrally maintained. Further meetings are scheduled with the UW Development Office to discuss additional approaches to fund-raising.

2. Doctoral Field Development

For a program of its size, the Tri-University is surprisingly narrow in its formal scope. The program is authorized by OCGS to advertise in only 6 doctoral fields, which leaves many of the country's leading faculty unrepresented in our PhD field structure. A proposal for new fields in "Cold War era" history and "Medieval" history was prepared in the fall of 2008 together with a proposal to transform the "Race, Imperialism and Slavery" field into a "World History" field. The new fields have been approved in principle by the History Department at WLU and are under discussion in the other two departments. The goal of field expansion is to broaden the base of faculty supervision and to involve in the program the substantial body of individuals whose areas of expertise are not covered by the 6 doctoral fields.

3. Equalization of Funding

As explained in 6.4 above, funding discrepancies continued to plague the program. Our goal is to ensure that the interim solutions reached in 2008 are sustained and that funding levels remain in rough balance across the three universities.

4. Advertising, Promotion and Recruiting

The program needs to intensify its advertising and promotional campaign. What worked well in 2008 and attracted record numbers of applicants and acceptances, was not as effective in 2009. Although the website has proven a powerful recruiting tool and has seen 15,000 discrete hits since April 2008 (2,000 visits to the site have been made through Google and other search engines), we are learning that it is not a stand-alone device. A priority for the program is to find new methods of drawing students to the website. We will do more in the direction of direct electronic advertising as a way of attracting attention to the program. We have adopted the postcards as a method of achieving niche-marketing, and we will continue with that effort, but bringing the postcards to the attention of students remains a challenge. In addition to sending postcards to the departments we will be sending them to faculty teaching in the specific areas

advertised on the cards. We will attempt to have the faculty bring them to the attention of their students. We also plan to prepare a new one-page advertisement which will replace the one we have been using for two years. This advertisement will serve as direct on-line mailings advertisement.

The program will, however, maintain the overall thematic direction of the 2007-8/2008-9 campaigns, which stressed the program's size (one of the largest history faculty complement in Canada) and diversity and it will continue to draw potential applicants' attention to the benefits of studying at three different universities at once. We will more deliberately integrate advertising for the Tri-University conference into the overall marketing strategy. A significant advertisement for the program that we need to more fully support is the conferencing and networking activity of our own students. Already our students are highly active participants in the conference circuit (see Appendix B). The program plans to increase its financial commitment to this activity.

The coordinating committee takes seriously the lowered acceptance rate in 2009 and will review procedures. The challenge that faces us is to find not just new ways of drawing students to the program but also new ways of securing their acceptances once offers are made.

Appendix A

Student Awards (External)

OGS Award Winners:

Jill Campbell Miller (UW)
Ryan Kirkby (UW)
Michael Pitblado (UW)
Katherine Scott (UG)
Jessica Steinberg (UG)
Jen De Vries (UW)
John Wilson (UG)
Cassandra Woloschuk (UG)

SSHRC Award Winners

Jonathan Crossen (UW, PhD)
Ian Haight (UW, PhD)
Nathan Hatton (UW, PhD)
Peter Kikkert (UW, MA)
Lianne Leddy (WLU, PhD)
Michael Paiva (UW, MA)
Danielle Terbenche (UW, PhD)
Jane Whalen (WLU, PhD)

Balsillie Fellowships (WLU Spring/Summer Term 2008):

Jenn Annis,
Keith Calow
Tavis Harris
Matt Symes

Appendix B

Student Scholarly Publications and Conferences

1. Articles:

Kim Anderson, "Leading by Action: Female Chiefs and the Political Landscape". In Gail Guthrie Valaskakis, Madeleine Dion Stout and Eric Guimond, Eds., *Restoring the Balance: First Nations Women, Community and Culture*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2009.

Kim Anderson, "Notokwe Opikiheet/Old-Lady Raised: Aboriginal Women: Reflections on Ethics and Methodologies in Health Research". *Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme, Special Indigenous Women* 27.1 (Winter), 2009.

Lorene Bridgen "On Their Own Terms: Temperance in Southern Ontario's Black Community (1830-1860)" *Ontario History* (Spring 2009).

Jonathan Crossen, "Theory and Practice: The International Co-operative Alliance and the Second Socialist International". *Occasional Paper Series, Volume 3, Issue 2. BC Institute for Co-operative Studies* January 2009.

Tavis Harris . "Stacey and the Use of Oral Accounts in the Dieppe Narratives." In *Between History and Memory: Conference Proceedings of the University of Victoria Oral Military History Conference*. (Forthcoming).

Peter Kikkert "The Polaris Incident: Going to the Mat with the Americans", *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*, forthcoming Spring 2009.

Peter Kikkert, "Sovereignty and Security: DEXAF, the United States and Arctic Sovereignty, 1945-1968." *Centre for Military and Strategic Studies Calgary Papers Studies*, forthcoming fall 2009. (paper co-authored with Professor Whitney Lackenbauer of the University of St. Jerome's at Waterloo)

Josh McFadyen, "Breaking Sod or Breaking Even? Flax in the Northern Great Plains and Prairies, 1889-1930". *Agricultural History*, Spring 2009.

Katharine McGowan, "A Finger in the Fire: Canadian Volunteer Soldiers and their Perceptions of Canada. Collective Identity through their Experience of the Boer War". *War and Society* 28.1 (May 2009) Forthcoming

Jan Raska, "Mistrusted Strangers at Home: Czechs, Slovaks, and the Canadian Enemy Aliens Registration Issue, 1938-1942". *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 38 (2009).

2. Student Conference Activity:

Kim Anderson, "Gii maa kwe Remembered: Roles and Authorities of Elder Women in Mid-Century Algonquian Communities". Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference, University of Minnesota, May 21-23, 2009.

Kim Anderson, "Leadership and Women Chiefs". Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, Ottawa, March 10, 2009.

Guillaume Larocque Beaudin, "Othering Columbus : Representations of Columbus and of alterity in the late nineteenth and late twentieth centuries". Tri-University Program in History Conference, November 2008.

Guillaume Larocque Beaudin, "Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda et une vie de controversies". Pierre Savard Conference, University of Ottawa, 2-3 April 2009

Suzette Blom, "Gender roles in the casket letters: the condemnation of Mary queen of Scots". McGill-Queens graduate conference, March 2008.

Suzette Blom, "Jews, Divorce and the French revolution: The intersection of Corporate private life and Political individuality". CNERS graduate conference University of British Columbia, May 2009.

Suzette Blom, "Jews, Divorce and the French revolution: The intersection of Corporate private life and Political individuality". Milton Plesur conference in Amherst, New York, April 2009.

Bowley, Patricia. 'Land as Property, Property as Soil: Making Farms in Ontario in the 19th Century'. Ontario Historical Society Conference, Guelph, Ontario, June 14, 2008.

Lorene Bridgen, "Making a Choice?: Temperance As Authority in Southern Ontario's Black Community, 1830-1890." Canadian Historical Association Conference, Carleton University, 25-27 May, 2009.

Lorene Bridgen, "(In)temperate in Temperate Times: African-Canadian Temperance in South Western Ontario". 13th Annual New Frontiers Graduate History Conference at York University, 19-21 February 2009.

Stephen Burgess-Whiting, "Constructing Citizenship: Race, Imperialism and Empire Day Celebrations in Ontario Public Schools, 1899-1955". Tri-University History Conference, November, 2008.

Keith Calow, "The Use of Unjust Enrichment in the Reparations Debate". American Historical Association Conference, Washington D.C., January 2008.

Jill Campbell-Miller, "*Ex Unitate Vires*": Elite Consolidation and the Union of South Africa, 1902-1910". Tri-University Conference, Waterloo, Ontario, November 2008.

Jacqueline Cannata, "Focusing on the Negative" presented at the "History in the Making: Sources of Controversy" conference at Concordia University, March 2008

Jacqueline Cannata, "Confronting Tomorrow: Ken Hammond's Contribution to Environment Awareness in Guelph" presented at the "Kenneth Hammond Lectures on Environment, Energy and Resources". Conference through the Faculty of Environmental Science at the University of Guelph, April 2008

Elysia DeLaurentis, "'Dressed in Borrowed Plumage': A Century of Cross Dressing in Wellington County." Interdisciplinary conference in the Humanities, York University, May 1st and 2nd, 2009.

Allan Downey, "Native Athleticism and Amusement: Six Nations Lacrosse on Tour, 1867-1904". Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis May 2009.

Norman Erwin, "Never has there been such a phenomenon of paranoia: Re-evaluating Canadian media reports of the Nazi death camps". Presented at the Sixth Annual Fort Garry Lectures in History Graduate Student Conference, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, May 2008.

Norman Erwin, "Making Sense of Mass Murder: Torontonians, Media, and the Liberation of the Concentration Camps". Presented at the War Crimes Conference, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, England, February 2009.

Bertram Frandsen, "Air Vice Marshal/Major-General Fred Carpenter and the RCAF Vision" 14th Annual Air Force Historical Workshop, Kanata, Ontario, 24 September 2008 (Proceedings to be published 2009).

Bertram Frandsen, "Air Transport: The Forgotten Dimension of Air Power" 19th Military History Colloquium, Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Waterloo, Ontario, 2 May 2008.

Tavis Harris, "C.P. Stacey and the Use of Oral Accounts in Official and External Affairs History". University of Victoria Military and Oral History Conference: Between Memory and History, February 2008.

Tavis Harris, "Theirs is a Peculiar Species of Love: Class, Recruitment and Support for the Great War in Berlin/Kitchener Ontario." New Frontiers' York University Graduate History Conference, February 2008.

Tavis Harris, "C.P. Stacey and the Use of Oral Accounts in the Dieppe Narratives". 19th Military History Colloquium, Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies, May 2008.

Tavis Harris, "Violence and Voting: Labour, Conscription, the Military and the 1917 Federal Election in Berlin Ontario". 'New Frontiers' York University Graduate History Conference, February 2009.

Nathan Hatton "Wrestling With Ethnicity: Immigration, Sport and Class in Winnipeg Society," at Sport Canada Conference, Gatineau, PQ, November 2008.

Ryan Kirkby, "The Silent Rebellion: The Black Panther Party and Community Activism, 1966-1971", Canadian Historical Association Conference, May 2009.

Ryan Kirkby, "'The Revolution Will Not Be Televised': Community Activism and the Hidden History of the Black Panther Party, 1966-1971". Tri-University History Conference, November 2008.

Peter Kikkert, "Kurt Meyer in the Eyes of the Canadian People: Victim and Hero, Villain and Monster, or worse - a German? ". Tri-University History Conference, Waterloo, Ontario, 15 November 2008.

Peter Kikkert, "Sovereignty and Security: DEXAF, the United States and Arctic Sovereignty, 1945-1968." Paper delivered at Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Centennial Conference, In the National Interest, Calgary, Alberta, 25 January 2009. (paper co-authored with Professor Whitney Lackenbauer of the University of St. Jerome's at Waterloo)

Peter Kikkert, "Rising Above the Rhetoric: Northern Voices and the Strengthening of Canada's Capacity to Maintain a Stable Circumpolar World." Paper delivered at Canada's Role in the Circumpolar World: A Symposium Showcasing Preeminent Graduate Students, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 9 March 2009. (funding for symposium provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Government of Canada)

Lianne Leddy, "Interviewing Grandma and other Reflections of a new Historian Embarking on Community-Based Research" Canadian Historical Association Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, June 2008.

Amir Locker-Biletzki, "Mark Milman: an Israeli Hero in the Spanish Civil War". Tri-University History Program Conference, Waterloo, Ontario, November 2008.

Lindsey Lorimer, "An Impeachment Above All Others: Charles James Fox and the Trial of Warren Hastings". McGill-Queen's Graduate Conference in History, 2008.

Melissa MacSweyn, "The Choices of Women: Female Captives in the Holy Land". 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 7-10, 2009.

Katharine McGowan, "'A Wholesome Influence with the Indians': Initial Reflections on the Department of Indian Affairs' Participation in the Recruitment of Native Men and Preliminary Statistical Analysis." Annual New Frontiers Graduate History Conference at York University in February 2009.

Jeff Nilsson, History, University of Waterloo, 'Three Cheers for 'Old Charlie': The Role of Sport in Junior Officer-Man Relations in the Canadian Expeditionary Force / Canadian Corps, 1914-1918'. Tri-University History Conference, Waterloo, Ontario, November 2008.

Heather Parker, "The Use and Abuse of Marriage Contracts in Late Medieval Scotland". Tri-University Program in History Conference, Waterloo, November 2008.

Heather Parker, "Motivations for Marriage in Late Medieval Scotland". Gender and Generations: Women and Life Cycles Conference, University of Glasgow, September 2008.

Niklas Straub, "Shifting attitudes towards treating nymphomania in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries." History of Medicine Conference, University of Calgary, March 2009.

Jan Raska, "Forging States of Dissent: Czech migration, Communist Spies, and Canadian State Security, 1945-1968". International Conference: Institute of National Remembrance, Lublin, Poland, November 13, 2008.

Jan Raska, "Masking "Undesirable" Entry, Subverting Integration: Czechoslovakian Migration, Espionage, and Canadian State Security, 1945-1968". Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Meeting 2009, Carleton University, Ottawa, May 23, 2009.

Ben Robinson, "Grandstands and Knotholes: A Portrait of the Baseball Spectator in New York City, 1883-1887." Tri-University Graduate Program in History Conference, November 2008 and at the Nineteenth Century Base Ball Conference at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, April, 2009.

Katherine Scott, "They taught us how to make things just that little bit nicer": Progressive Continuity and Rural Reform Targeting Women in Ontario's Ottawa Valley, 1900-1950". Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society Little Rock, Arkansas, June 18, 2009.

Emanuele Sica, "Italian Immigrants in France from 1870-1939: The Story of a Difficult Integration". Tri-University History Conference, November 2008.

Heiko Stang, "Namibian Migrant Workers: Resistance against Colonialism and Apartheid, 1917-1990". Tri-University History Program Conference, November 2008.

Luke J. Stewart, "Too Loud to Rise above the Silence: The Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal and its Critics, November 1966 to January 1968". Tri-University History Program Conference, November, 2008.

Luke Stewart, 'Burning the Candle at Both Ends': The Johnson Administration Reaction to 'Citizen Diplomats' Traveling to North Vietnam, December 1965 to March 1966. 'New Frontiers' York University Graduate History Conference, February 2009.

Mark Sweeney, "Letters from Yokohama: Major John Dickey and the Prosecution of Japanese Class 'B' and 'C' War Crimes". Tri-University History Program Conference, November 2008.

Jane Whalen, "Indian Tuberculosis: Racial Politics and Public Health Crises in Early Twentieth-Century Canada". Making Race, Making Health Conference, University of Texas at Austin, 13-15 November 2008.

Jane Whalen, "Champion of the Indians and the Immigrant: The Forgotten Legacy of the Public Health Crusades of Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce". Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical

Association, Carleton University, 25-27 May 2009.

Jane Whalen, "Citizens Minus? Government and Public Health Responses to the White Plague in Canada, 1900-1945". Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, Carleton University, 29-31 May 2009.

3. Invited Lectures given by Students:

Kim Anderson, "Native Women and Narratives of the Land: The Contact Zone", Indigenous Speaker Series, Carleton University, February 6, 2009.

Kim Anderson, "Aboriginal People and Research in the Arts and Social Science". Aboriginal Research Ethics Series, University of Guelph, Oct. 15, 2008.

Kim Anderson. "Notokwe Opihikeet: Reflections on Aboriginal Women and Health Research" Annual Public Lecture, CHSRF/CIHR Chair in Health Services and Nursing Research, York University, February 8, 2008.

Kim Anderson, "Issues Surrounding Teen Parenthood" (with Eric Guimond). Keynote Address: Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, Ottawa, March 9, 2009.