Communities: Recognition and Commemoration

Tri-University Annual History Conference

March 11th 2017
Balsillie School of International Affairs, CIGI Campus
67 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario
The Tri-University Conference would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University are situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

Conference Welcome

We are thrilled to be able to welcome you to the 23rd Annual Tri-University History Conference! When the planning committee first gathered in the fall to begin preparations, it was clear to us that 2017 was to be a year of important commemorations: 150 years since Canada’s Confederation; 100 years since the Russia Revolution; 40 years since the last reported case of smallpox; 10 years since the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the list went on! Once proposals started coming in, we were so pleased at the strength of the scholarship and the enthusiasm with which presenters engaged with the conference’s theme of the complexities of commemoration across a diverse range of geographies, periods, and populations. We are confident this year’s conference will prove enriching for all.

As with most endeavours, the end result could not have come to fruition without the help and support of others. We wish to extend a thank-you to the Tri-University History program for their support, as well as the individual faculty and staff across the three departments who have helped make this day happen. In particular, we wish to thank Susan Roy, our faculty organizer, for all her hard work and enthusiasm throughout this process.

Lucy Vorobej and Tim Clarke

Message from the Tri-University Director

Welcome to the Tri-University History Conference!

In the past year, I’ve talked with many of our graduates about what sets the Tri-University Program apart. Invariably, the discussion comes around to the Conference, and its importance in helping junior scholars to learn how to craft their research for the public and to find their footing as presenters.

People have been finding their footing in this way at the Conference since 1988—six years before the founding of the Tri-U Program itself. The commemorative theme of this year’s event recently led me to look back at some of the Conference’s early programs, and I was moved to see, in the titles of some of the papers, the seeds of great books and articles to come.

Here’s to the planting of new seeds, and to a great day ahead!

Adam Crerar, Director, Tri-University Graduate Program in History
REGISTRATION AND COFFEE: 8:30-9:00

SESSION ONE: 9:00-10:15

Beyond Borders: Commemoration in World History (Room 143)
Chair: Dr. Howard Chiang, University of Waterloo
Preston Arens, “Commemoration of Algerian Independence,” University of Waterloo

Moving in from the Margins: Narratives of Regulation and Resistance (Room 142)
Chair: Dr. Heather MacDougall, University of Waterloo
Alex Rousseau, “Media Discourse on the Internment of People with European Origins During World War II,” Wilfrid Laurier University

Dalton Rawcliffe, “Memory of the Riots: Hong Kong 1967,” Wilfrid Laurier University

Sholeye Yusuf, “A History of Boundary Disputes in Africa and its Impacts on Sociopolitical Development,” University of Waterloo

SESSION TWO: 10:30-11:45

Between Self and Nation: Community and Identity (Room 143)
Chair: Dr. Adam Crerar, Wilfrid Laurier University
Trudy Tattersall, “Now visit we the sacred shrines, the relics of an Honoured past”: A Brief History of the Pilgrimages of the St. Catharines Women’s Literacy Club,” Brock University

Joanna Rickert-Hall, “Commemoration Starts at Home: Local History, Local Memories,” Wilfrid Laurier University

Taylor Surman, “Community Lost?: Myth of Welfare Housing,” Wilfrid Laurier University

Sarah McTavish, “Boarding a Sinking Ship: Seattle’s Maritime Heritage,” University of Waterloo

Indigenous Activisms on Turtle Island (Room 142)
Chair: Dr. Brittany Luby, University of Guelph

Mariah Guta, “Reconciliation on Whose Terms? The Death of Will Maquinna at the Ahousaht Indian Residential School,” Wilfrid Laurier University


Clayton Needham, “Causalities of Paranoia: The FBI’s Use of Agent Provocateurs and Informants within the American Indian Movement,” University of Waterloo
**LUNCH:** 11:45-12:45

Lunch will be self-served on tables near the entrance to the Balsillie School. Participants are welcome to eat where they are comfortable, including in classrooms 143, 131, 142.

Please be seated in the CIGI Auditorium no later than 12:45 for the keynote performance. Doors will open at 12:30.

**KEYNOTE:**

‘**SOLDIERS OF SONG: A TRIBUTE TO THE DUMBELLS’**

“If nationhood was won on the crest of Vimy Ridge, it was the Dumbells who provided the country with its earliest soundtrack.”

Soldiers of Song is a performance involving theatre, music, and storytelling based on the original works of the Dumbells, a Canadian concert party that entertained the troops on the front line in World War I. The soldier-entertainers’ journey from Vimy to vaudeville is the focus of this musical play, written and directed by award-winning author, two-time Juno Award-nominee, and Tri-University Graduate Program alumni Jason Wilson. He is joined by storyteller Lorne Brown, actors Jim Armstrong and Andrew Knowlton, and musicians Marcus Ali and Patrice Barbanchon. The talented cast of musicians and actors bring the old comedy sketches and humorous war-time songs to life.

SESSION THREE: 2:30-3:45

Hearing from the Homefront (Room 143)
Chair: Dr. Cynthia Comacchio, Wilfrid Laurier University


Lisa Tubb, “Inside the Munitions War: A Case Study of the Social Experiences of War Workers at Defense Industries Ltd., Ajax, Ontario during the Second World War,” University of Waterloo

Sara Karn, “Voices of Youth in Wartime: Students at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School during the Second World War,” Wilfrid Laurier University

Representation and the Complexities of Memory (Room 142)
Chair: Dr. Jennifer Tunniclife, University of Waterloo

Yelena Abdullayeva, “Commemorating the Russian Revolution: Perception and Presentation in Russian Media and Society,” University of Waterloo


Dr. Christina Han, “A Scholar-Soldier in a Mourning Robe: The Politics of Remembering Imjin War Hero No In (1566-1622),” Wilfrid Laurier University


SESSION FOUR: 4:00-5:15

Remembering Life, Land, and Environment (Room 143)
Chair: Dr. Karen Racine, University of Guelph

Sonya Pihura, “Changing Perceptions of the Environment in Reformation Scotland,” University of Waterloo

Amy Beingessner, “Orcadian, Norwegian, and Scottish Perspectives on Cultural Pluralism in the Orkney Islands,” University of Guelph


David More, “Other (Canadian) Stuff We Never Learned About: French-Canadian Mariners in the early post-Conquest Era, 1775-1815,” Queen’s University

Commemoration and Conflict (Room 142)
Chair: Dr. Geoff Hayes, University of Waterloo

Mitchell McGowan, “Commemorating (or Forgetting?) the Canadian Veterans of the Spanish Civil War,” University of Waterloo

Justin Harvey, “Between Evil and Elite: A Select Examination of Western Historiography Regarding the Waffen SS,” University of Waterloo

David Alexander, “A Map of War and Memory: Owen Sound Collegiate,” University of Waterloo

Following the conference, please join us at the Heuther Hotel for drinks, snacks, and continued conversation!

*All Welcome!*