

CHIMO



Number 39

Fall 1999


CHIMO (Chee'mo) greetings [Inuit]

CHIMO

The Newsjournal of the Canadian Association for
Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies.



Number 39



Fall 1999

CHIMO



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Production, Design, and Layout: Susan Miller

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Please address membership correspondence to Robin Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the last *Chimo* of the twentieth century. I have that "what the twilight said" feeling as I write you. About to end are the year, decade, and century, and (in the popular Western imagination) the millennium, too. At CACLALS, Rowland Smith, Gary Boire, and Roza Cunningham have passed their respective torches to a triumfemate at UNB--Wendy Robbins, president; Robin Sutherland, secretary-treasurer; and Susan Miller, administrator. My first presidential message is intended as a ringing thanks to the WLU team, on behalf of the whole association, for a protracted term of work well done under difficult circumstances and competing responsibilities, and in particular to Rowland, now providing continuity and sage counsel. It is also intended as a ringing welcome to all of you to the new era dawning at CACLALS as elsewhere.

How do I see us, as a scholarly association, faring? Let me count the files:

Campaign for Members

CACLALS membership is almost equally divided between those who are paid up and those who are not. As a top priority, we are launching a campaign to attract new members and to reconnect with "lapsed" ones. Please talk to your colleagues--faculty and graduate students--and display the membership poster included in this issue of *Chimo*. Let's each try to sign on just one more person.

CACLALS Online

We are using the CACLALS-L online discussion list to share ideas and distribute messages. About 100 people are subscribed. To add your name, send an email message, without any subject heading, to CACLALS-L-Server@unb.ca. The message should simply say (with the substitution of your actual names): Subscribe CACLALS-L first_name last_name. You'll receive further instructions via return email.

We invite your feedback about the CACLALS Web site, which can be found at <http://www.unb.ca/CACLALS>. It includes information about CACLALS, PhD reading lists in our field, course outlines, a link to the Indian regional branch IACLALS (<http://iaclals.8m.com>), and a wealth of online resources that support postcolonial studies.

CACLALS Chronology

One additional resource we would like to develop on the CACLALS Web site is a Chronology of the association, going back to its founding in 1973 and listing the highlights, such as the sequence of Commonwealth-in-Canada conferences, publications, and any other events you think should be preserved in this way. At headquarters, we have no issues of *Chimo* before Number 25, so a lot of our collective memory is missing. If you have spare back copies that you could donate to our

collection, we would be grateful. Or you could scan them electronically for highlights to include in the Chronology and email the material to us at caclals@unb.ca.

COSSH Conference (Edmonton)

The next annual CACLALS conference, part of the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities (COSSH), will take place in Edmonton. The dates are May 25-27, 2000, and we thank our local representatives, Stephen Slemon and Lily Cho, for their volunteer efforts on our behalf. A Call for Proposals for the Edmonton conference is included in this issue of *Chimo*. The overall conference theme is "First Past the Post: Reconsidering Postcolonialism in the 21st Century," but a variety of works-in-progress will be accepted, and a special graduate student panel, now a tradition, will be organized, as well as an Aboriginal literature roundtable.

Commonwealth-in-Canada Conference (Fredericton)

The next triennial Commonwealth-in-Canada conference is being planned for UNB, Fredericton, for September 29 - October 1, 2000. Again, a Call for Proposals is included. The theme is "Digital Imperialism and the Global Village: Postcolonial Literature Studies & the New Communications Technologies." A videoconference component is planned so as to include some of our "digitized" sister associations, such as IACLALS (Hyderabad) and ACLALS (Canberra). Please reserve the dates and plan to attend! Fredericton is especially lovely in the fall.

Completed Funding Applications

Our first tasks have been to complete applications for funding to the Commonwealth Foundation and to SSHRC, for a small operating grant and for our Commonwealth-in-Canada conference. We'll keep you posted via CACLALS-L and *Chimo* on results.

Chimo

As usual, this fall issue contains our Treasurer's Report. You will also find a book review, as well as reports on two conferences, announcements, and so on. If you have ideas as to how this publication might serve us even better in the future, please share them. One goal is to put back issues of *Chimo* online, starting six months from now when this issue is no longer the current one.

Cheers

We look forward to working with you all as we enter the 21st century! Please keep in touch.

Yours,
Wendy Robbins



CONFERENCE REPORTS

“Nationalism, Citizenship, and National Identity”

On November 11-13, the Canadian Studies Association at Mount Allison University hosted a conference organized around the theme “Nationalism, Citizenship, and National Identity.” Panellists travelled from across Canada, and in some instances from abroad, to discuss Canadian national identity from a variety of perspectives. Although the group of more than 50 conference-goers included few representatives from literature studies, and no papers on nationalism and literature, panels did attempt to reflect the regional and multi-cultural diversity of Canada. Attendees included politicians, political-scientists, journalists, historians, and sociologists; this combination of political commentators and academics provided an insightful context for anyone studying Canadian or Commonwealth literatures and cultures.

Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner launched the conference with the first keynote address on Thursday evening, during which time he focussed his attention on the corporate agenda in the global marketplace, its threat to a Canadian national identity, and the fact that this topic has gone virtually unnoticed and undiscussed in Parliament. This subject was further debated by the other keynote speakers: Richard Gwyn, Dalton Camp, and Sylvia Bashevkin, who, with the exception of the more optimistic Gwyn, probed many of the negative aspects of globalism, nation, and welfare state reform.

Concurrent panel sessions followed up on issues raised in the keynote addresses. A wide range of papers discussed: the changing relations between the Quebec government and Aboriginal peoples, the historical discourse of Aboriginal citizenship the regional identification of Albertans in the late 1920s, the evolution of the New Zealand nation state during and after WWII. Papers also discussed politics of self-representation, for example, the symbolic ways in which Canadian history has been re-visited and re-presented in the television-broadcast vignettes *Heritage Moments*. Other interesting papers discussed the symbolic structures that also assist in promoting a national identity: the evolution of Canadian currency, the changing role and presence of Canadian banks, and the status of National Parks.

The conference raised more questions about the future of national identity than it answered. If however, as John Turner suggests, our elected politicians are avoiding the hot topic of globalism and the future of Canadian identity, the country's academics and journalists are not. The speakers and attendees at this conference were an informed and informative group of people who indicated that on the eve of the millenium, the discussion of Canadian nationalism was actually just beginning.

Dr. Raymond Blake is the Director of the Canadian Studies Association at Mount Allison University. Anyone interested in learning more about this highly respected Association can visit its web site: http://aci.mta.ca/depts/canadian_studies/. - Robin Sutherland

REPORT ON 1999 HSSFC ANNUAL MEETING

The 1999 Annual Meeting of the three-year-old Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada (HSSFC) took place November 19-21 at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa. CACLALS participates in the category of "small associations," a designation based on numbers of paid-up members. This was my first meeting as President of CACLALS, and I was warmly welcomed by HSSFC President Louise Forsyth and others. What follows is a personal report tailored to our concerns as humanities faculty, students, and researchers.

Background

The HSSFC represents 68 scholarly associations (including CACLALS) and 69 universities and colleges. Its purpose is to "promote teaching, research, and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences and a better understanding of the importance of such work for Canada and the world." Two of its most visible activities are the annual Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities (COSSH) and its Aid to Scholarly Publications Program. More information is on the Federation Web site at <http://www.hssfca.ca>.

Humanities Research Funding

The main topic of the 1999 Annual Meeting was Canada's research infrastructure. I learned the startling statistic that, while SSHRC provides research support "for about 53% of Canada's faculty members, it receives only 12% of the total budget for our three granting agencies" (MRC, NSERC, SSHRC). And I was surprised to read the following in Louise Forsyth's *President's Report*. "By the way, did you know that private sector support for research in the natural and bio-medical sciences is eligible for Federal Research and Development Tax Credits of 25-30%, while support for research in the social sciences and humanities is explicitly excluded from tax credit provisions?" (Nov. 1999, 6).

The HSSFC Executive was, on the whole, in a celebratory mood, pleased with the results of its recent advocacy efforts with the federal government to raise the research profile and increase research funding in our areas. Some tangible results of its advocacy are the following:

- As announced recently in the Throne Speech, \$40 million has been designated for the creation of 1,200 new "21st Century Chairs for Research Excellence" which will be set up in universities across Canada; 20% of these are reserved for humanities and social science researchers.
- As reported at the HSSFC meeting by Dr. Henry Freisen, President of the Medical Research Council (a funding body which will be folded into and replaced within the next few months by the new CIHR--Canadian Institutes for Health Research), social scientists and humanities researchers will soon be eligible to apply for health research funding. Four kinds of determinants of health are

being recognized by the new CIHR funding agency: social, environmental, genetic, and biological.

- As reported by Dr. Marc Renaud, President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the federal government has been responsive to lobbying for increased funding and has restored SSHRC's budget to its 1995 level, with increases, for example, of 46% to its Travel Grants program and reinstatement of its Release Time Stipends program.

In addition to Canada's research infrastructure, other topical issues under study at HSSFC include e-publishing, performance indicators, academic women's issues, strategic themes, and the plight of modern languages studies on our campuses. (The latter situation is ironic, indeed incomprehensible, in light of the "globalization" of just about every aspect of our economic life at present.)

Angst and Assimilation in the Discourse of Science

A second, and contrasting, theme ran through the meetings, in counterpoint. *Angst*. Certain current values and practices on campus, such as the implementation of a corporate agenda and the chronic low esteem accorded the humanities, are creating what Louise Forsyth refers to as "the climate of *Angst* that prevails in the lives of many faculty members and students" (*President's Report*, 1).

Of special concern at the meeting was the dominance of the paradigms and discourse of the natural and bio-medical sciences. Humanists are now being accepted as "scientists." But at what cost? We may become eligible for health research funding--but what about our (other) priorities? It reminds me of the "just add a few women and stir" superficiality of the academy's early adjustment to the demand for women in the curriculum--what is now termed "educational equity." Concerns about the relative merits of separate status and/or mainstreaming similar to those we have addressed with respect to women's writing or postcolonial authors in the literary canon surely need to be addressed here, too. Are we, as humanities researchers, moving autonomously from the margins to the centre or simply being assimilated?

The "Nwoye's Mother" Syndrome

Have we, like an impoverished woman, been married off to a powerful man with wealth enough to pay our bride price? Have we traded our own identity for higher status by virtue of our relationship to a more valued "other"? Or are we, on the cusp of the new millennium, finally strong enough to change the paradigms and the discourse of the sciences to create a Shakespearean "marriage of true souls," a Brontean union in which "he is my life as fully as I am his"? Call me Cassandra, Antigone, Cordelia, St. Joan, Nwoye's mother, or just plain Jane, if you will. This is an important moment for the Canadian research community, certainly, but not as fully "transformative" as it is hyped up to be. Please remember that the CACLALS-L online discussion list is available for

discussion of Bill C-13, which will legislate the creation of the CIHR between now and April 1st as well as for dialogue on any other topic of concern.

Plans for COSSH 2000 in Edmonton

Roundtable sessions focussed on Research Infrastructure, Women in Academe, the Humanities Working Group, and the Women's Issues Network. There will be a full day devoted to Women in the Academy at the COSSH conference in May in Edmonton. (About 30% of faculty members across Canada today are women.) A Call for Papers will be circulated shortly by Dr. Cynthia Alexander. Dr. Vanaja Dhruvarajan, President of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association (CSAA), announced that its Women's Caucus is proposing that a Congress 2000 theme be "Globalization: The Discourse of Inevitability and a Search for Alternate Paradigms."

HSSFC President-Elect Clements

Interestingly, the President-Elect of HSSFC is an English professor, Dr. Patricia Clements, University of Alberta. She is one of the few humanities researchers to have received funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for her work on The Orlando Project, An Integrated History of Women's Writing in the British Isles, at <http://www.ualberta.ca/ORLANDO/orlando.htm>. We have written to congratulate her.

ACCUTE

Finally, a word about ACCUTE, to which many, perhaps even most, CACLALS members belong. ACCUTE, through its President, Dr. Noreen Golfman, was praised and thanked for providing "exemplary leadership" and for its "powerful, positive, and innovative impact on policy direction at HSSFC." The ACCUTE General Assembly of 1999 voted to provide its members with the opportunity to contribute a voluntary (opt-in) \$5.00 fee directed annually to HSSFC—a levy which qualifies for matching funds from SSHRC and which could thus generate about \$9,000 per year (and up to \$200,000 if other associations were to follow ACCUTE's lead). As ACCUTE says, this sends a clear signal that "members care about the future of the humanities and social sciences in Canada--care enough to invest their own money in it." CACLALS will discuss this at our next annual meeting.

- Wendy Robbins



Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada
 Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales

BOOK REVIEW

Words Out There: Women Poets in Atlantic Canada

Edited by Jeanette Lynes

Foreword by Gwendolyn Davies

Lockeport, Nova Scotia: Roseway, 1999.

232 pages, \$18.95

In the introduction to *Words Out There*, editor Jeanette Lynes invokes the legacy of Elizabeth Bishop to frame the contents of this collection, which brings together selected poetry and interviews with twenty-three Atlantic Canadian women writers. Bishop provides an appropriate starting point for the work, as a female poet whose work often straddles the Canadian-American border and thus challenges easy assertions about identity and national affiliation. As Lynes points out, Bishop's famous poem "The Moose," which depicts a nighttime bus ride through New Brunswick, is attentive to the particularities of various landscapes and voices that otherwise remain neglected. Likewise, the poets gathered in *Words Out There* demonstrate the value of such attentiveness for those interested in contemporary Canadian poetry. These women all reside in Canada's eastern provinces, and although their poetic influences and subjects often involve the crossing of borders and boundaries (whether the forty-ninth parallel, or the Atlantic Ocean), their main task, at least in the context of this collection, is to reconfigure the contemporary Canadian poetry scene and shift attention eastward, to where it belongs. In fact, two of the poets included in the collection—Lynn Davies and Sue Goyette—have both recently received Governor-General's Award nominations for their first books of poetry. With this, *Words Out There* becomes an especially timely compilation of poems and interviews that highlight the energy of the Atlantic Canadian poetry scene.

Words Out There is an expansive collection of poetry and interviews with twenty-three women poets who represent a wide array of poetic styles and thematic concerns. The book couples the work of established writers from the region, such as M. Travis Lane, Lesley-Anne Bourne, Liliane Welch, Maxine Tynes, and Rita Joe, with emerging poetic voices, including Davies, Goyette, Mary Dalton, Sue MacLeod, and Carole Langille. The selections of poetry, which are typically drawn from already published works, provide a brief sampling for readers who may not be familiar with an individual poet. The second half of the book shifts from poetic texts to interviews with each writer, that provide a context for their work; a short biographical note, a quotation taken from the interview, and a photograph at the beginning of each interview quickly familiarize readers with the poet's accomplishments and interests, which are then expanded through the dialogic format of the interviews themselves.

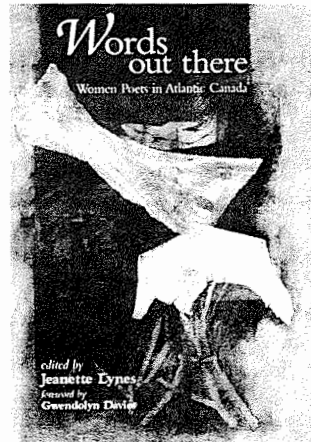
The foreword, written by Professor Gwen Davies, a Canadian literature scholar at Acadia University, and the introduction, by the editor, Jeanette Lynes, who is also an Atlantic Canadian-based English professor, outline the thematic threads that tie these poets together. All of the poets included in *Words Out There*, as Lynes explains, "share...a passionate engagement with language and place. For these writers, poetry is a way of

being, a way of situating themselves in a local and global sense" (9). Language and the "affirming power of words" provide a justification for bringing together a broad range of "both established and emerging poets" from an area of the country that is often under-represented or excluded altogether in Canadian poetry anthologies. In this respect, *Words Out There* attempts to close the gap by creating a survey of eastern Canadian women poets that offers both breadth and depth: the work of a large number of poets, from a variety of "different backgrounds" who reflect the "cultural multiplicity of Atlantic Canada," coupled with interviews that elaborate on how each writer understands and defines her poetic craft (9).

The strength of this collection lies in the range of poets included, and the content of several interviews which raise and debate some of the crucial questions about the state of contemporary Canadian poetry. Lynes places writers who are part of the anecdotal tradition in Canadian poetry (e.g. Heather Browne Prince, Margaret McLeod) side by side with the Newfoundland realist poetry of Carmelita McGrath and Mary Dalton, and the landscape oriented, densely metaphorical work of Davies, Goyette, and Anne Simpson. This mixing of styles aptly demonstrates the diversity of poetry being written in Atlantic Canada today. Moreover, Lynes and her interviewees explore issues of feminism, regional and national identity, race relations, and the intersections between poetry and politics, in a manner that highlights the symbiotic relationship between poetic craft and subject matter. Lynes is equally attentive to the formal aspects of poetry, giving space for these women writers to talk about poetic structure, diction, and language in a way that acknowledges the importance of these dimensions of the text; in doing so, Lynes refuses to replicate the narrow focus of some North American academic analyses of contemporary women poets, which favour thematic and overtly political readings of the poetry, while neglecting the formal aspects of the work.

Despite the anthology's virtues, the intended audience of *Words Out There* remains a mystery, because it does not neatly fit either the category of textbook anthology or trade book, aimed at a general audience. Poetry selections are limited to one or two works per poet, making the collection virtually useless as a teaching tool. At the same time, the specific scope of the project (Atlantic Canadian women poets) and the academic tone of the interviews suggest that it is not likely to become a mass market best-seller. Nonetheless, if *Words Out There* is intended to whet the appetite of those who want to know more about contemporary eastern Canadian women poets, then it may very well succeed; I, for one, hope it does.

Jennifer Andrews
University of New Brunswick



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes of the CACLALS Annual General Meeting

University of Sherbrooke, June 4, 1999, at 3:30 p.m.

1. Minutes of the last AGM: Lily Cho moved and Victor Ramraj seconded to accept the minutes. There were 2 abstentions. Motion passed.
2. Matters arising: Rowland pointed out an error on page 7 of last year's minutes. The College Rep. would now represent one college in Canada, and not the BC University Colleges only. Lily Cho moved; Ashok Mathur seconded. Motion passed.

It was proposed that the Constitution be amended to "College" from "Community College" in order to include those of different stripes. Guy Beaugard moved; Susie O'Brien seconded. Motion passed.

3. President's Report: Rowland urged CACLALS to influence ACLALS as its tone and mood changes with the geographical location and we have no easy access to one body of minutes.

A quick sweep of ACLALS history and an anecdotal account of the Kuala Lumpur conference were given by Rowland and Victor, followed by the suggestion that we should organize a session on the politics of place of ACLALS conferences at the next CACLALS.

4. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer: As noted on page 56 of *Chimo* July 1-Dec 31, 1998, the current Executive leaves CACLALS in a healthy financial state, with \$23,000. Gary thanked Rowland, and Lily thanked Rowland and Gary for serving us above and beyond the call of duty.
5. Election of Executive 1999-2002: The slate for regular members was distributed by Rowland. Graduate student members were asked to elect their rep.

President: Wendy Robbins
University of New Brunswick

Secretary-Treasurer: Robin Sutherland
University of New Brunswick

Past-President: Rowland Smith
Wilfrid Laurier University

BC & Northern Territories: Ranjini Mendis
Kwantlen University College

Prairies:	Laura Moss University of Manitoba
Quebec:	David Leahy Westmount, Quebec
Ontario:	Susie O'Brien McMaster University
College Rep:	Craig Tapping Malaspina University College

Rowland pointed out that since the President will be from the Maritime Region there will be no regional representative from the Maritimes. The slate was approved by acclamation.

Election of Grad Student Rep: Lily will remain; Sujaya Dhanvantari was nominated (for 2yrs) by Lily, seconded by Guy. Motion passed.

Guy raised the question of the fairness of a block vote for grad student rep., while Ashok supported a revisiting of where grad students are coming from. Sujaya questioned whether the mandate should be to recruit more grad students from across the provinces. Gary responded that CACLALS represents a partial knowledge, but one that performs a very important critical practice.

6. Other Business: Gary complained about the room A-8 260 we were assigned for the sessions as well as the refreshments following the AGM.

Ashok remarked that faculty should bring graduate students to these conferences. Wendy noted that Robin Sutherland is a graduate student and we now have a listserv as well to draw interested students and others.

John Eustace spoke of the need for marketing our organization through a poster, and Karen McFarlane suggested we distribute a form in the classrooms to promote membership.

Victor mentioned that the EACLALS meet as a triennial but not annually, whereas we meet annually as well as triennially. He suggested that we rethink this practice sometime in the interest of getting a better attendance at our sessions.

Refreshments were provided by the U of Sherbrooke after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranjini Mendis

TREASURER'S DRAFT REPORT

April 1 - October 31, 1999

Note to members ~ as I am still familiarizing myself with past and present banking activity and procedures, please accept this as a draft report of financial activity from the period April 1 - October 31, 1999. I have accounted for all monies accrued and spent during this period, with the exception of \$2, 550.08, which I intend to 'locate' and report on in the next Treasurer's Report (*Chimo*, Spring 2000) ~ Thank you!

Robin Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer
University of New Brunswick

INCOME

Balance (March 31):	23, 076.24
HSSFC grant money	1, 095.74
Membership fees (April 1 - Oct. 31)	982.37
Interest	117.23
<hr/>	
TOTAL INCOME	2, 195.34
BALANCE	25, 271.58

EXPENDITURES

Expenses (April 1 - Sept. 1):	
CiC publication(?)	4, 500.00
Bank statements (COSSH, <i>Chimo</i> , etc.)	4, 498.83
Expenses (Sept 1 - Oct 31):	
HSSFC meeting	417.80
Administrative Costs	120.06
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	9, 536.69
DRAFT BALANCE, OCTOBER 29, 1999:	*\$15, 734.89

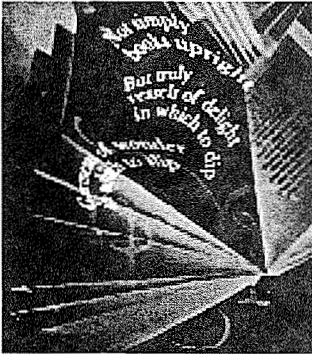
** balance as of Oct. 31 was: \$13, 184.81 ~ we are out \$2, 550.08*

COSSH

CACLALS AT COSSH UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON MAY 25 - 27, 2000

'FIRST PAST THE POST': RECONSIDERING POSTCOLONIALISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

For the upcoming Congress, we are organizing a program to accommodate various panels, papers, joint sessions (ACCUTE, CAIS), and a roundtable on Aboriginal literature. We also expect to include at least one session for the presentation and



discussion of works-in-progress. Papers and works-in-progress may consider, but need not be restricted to considering, some aspect of the future of post-colonialism. The final program will be determined by the submissions and suggestions received from members.

Proposals of 250-500 words should be submitted no later than January 31, 2000, a draft of the paper is due by March 31, 2000. We ask that papers read no longer than 30 minutes (approximately 10-12 pages of text).

Members who would like to organize a special session or panel should submit a detailed outline that includes the topic of the session, the names of the participants, and the abstracts of the papers to be read. Panels should be planned for 1-1½ hour time slots.

We will also be organizing a graduate student session; proposals should be forwarded to Robin Sutherland (contact information below), Michelene Adams (g37q@unb.ca), or Sujaya Dhanvantari (sujaya@gup.srv.ualberta.ca).

Proposals for papers and panels, as well as any general inquiries or suggestions, may be forwarded electronically or via regular mail to Robin Sutherland (caclals@unb.ca); CACLALS, Department of English, UNB, Box 4400, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5A3. Telephone: (506) 447-3069, Fax: (506) 453-5069.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS IN A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:
CONVERSATIONS ON THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF POSTCOLONIALISM
CACLALS AT COSSH - MAY 25-27, 2000

This roundtable discussion asks the following questions:

Where do postcolonial and queer theories intersect? How do theories of diasporas articulate queer identities? Are racial and sexual diasporas conceptually linked? and, How does queer studies enable a critique of traditional postcolonial and diasporic narratives?

This discussion hopes to address the theory and practice of race, gender, and sexual identities, as they pertain to questions of home, travel, borders, community, and self-articulation. The discussion welcomes a wide range of debates from studies on specific diasporic settings to revaluations of postcolonialism in the context of queer theory, and debates on the problem of situating academic conferences in postcolonial nations which do not acknowledge lesbian/gay/bisexual human rights.

Please submit proposals to Sujaya Dhanvantari at sujaya@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca by January 31, 2000.

Department of English
University of Alberta
3-5 Humanities Centre
Edmonton, AB, Canada
(780) 492-2445



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS IN A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON
 ABORIGINAL LITERATURE: PEDAGOGICAL, EPISTEMOLOGICAL
 AND CANONICAL CONCERNS
 CACLALS at COSSH: May 26, 2000

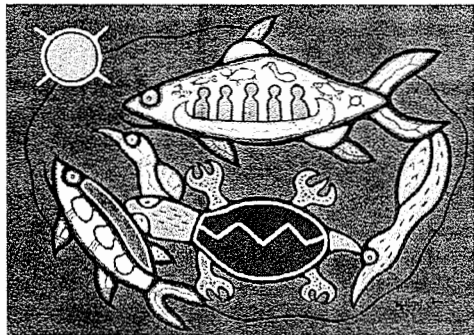
Those of you who plan to attend the 2000 Congress in Edmonton, consider your participation in a roundtable (or talking circle?) on Aboriginal (or Native or First Nations?) literature. Those of you who (want to) teach or research or study Aboriginal literature(s) may have concerns or questions that fall under the above heading, like: Is a text-based approach sufficient? Where to place it within the (English) curriculum -- Canadian, Postcolonial/Commonwealth, Women Studies contexts or "a stream" of its own, crosslisted with Indigenous Learning/Native Studies? Any selection of texts that "should" be taught? Which literary theory to use? How does one gain access to cultural contexts? Which cultural knowledge can be transplanted into an academic setting? Who is qualified to teach traditional stories? Should the knowledge of an Indigenous language be a prerequisite for teaching and studying Aboriginal literature? And many other questions.... Those of you who want to experience a different format than a series of read papers, join us in our circle. As Jo-Ann Thom (SIFC) put it: "Leave your papers at home and bring your brains." All we are asking for is your commitment to attend and make a contribution with a brief informal statement. We will list your names in the conference program, but the session is open to everybody.

Please send a brief biographical sketch and a few paragraphs which outline your interest in this roundtable, by January 31, 2000, to:

Renate Eigenbrod
 Department of English
 Lakehead University
 Thunder Bay, Ontario
 P7B 5E1
geigenbr@flash.lakeheadu.ca

OR

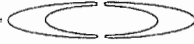
Peter Rasevych
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pmrasevy@ice.lakeheadu.ca



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

CACLALS

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDIES



DIGITAL IMPERIALISM AND THE GLOBAL VILLAGE:
POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE STUDIES &
THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

29 Sept.- 1 Oct. 2000

The Millennial Commonwealth in Canada Conference
Wu Conference Centre, University of New Brunswick

Hosted by the University of New Brunswick in its state-of-the-art Wu Conference Centre, the millennial CACLALS Commonwealth in Canada conference will include panels, papers, workshops, interdisciplinary sessions, and an international videoconference. The focus of discussion is the impact of the new communications technologies on the fields of Commonwealth and Postcolonial literatures.

We are soliciting proposals for papers and panels that will offer both local and international critiques of and/or perspectives on this quickly-growing area of study. Proposals of 250-500 words should be submitted no later than 15 February 2000.

If you would like to organize a special session or panel, please submit a detailed outline that includes the topic of the session, the names of the participants, and the abstracts of the papers to be read.

Proposals for papers and panels, as well as any general inquiries or suggestions, may be forwarded electronically or via regular mail to Robin Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer of CACLALS, by email at (caclals@unb.ca), or by regular mail at CACLALS, Department of English, UNB, Box 4400, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5A3, Canada. Telephone: (506) 447-3069. Fax: (506) 453-5069.

The program will be drawn up in March. Drafts of papers for proposals which are accepted will be due by 15 June 2000. We request that final papers take no longer than 30 minutes to deliver (approximately 10-12 pages of text), and that panels take no longer than 90 minutes.



"Is CANADA POSTCOLONIAL?"
September 14-16, 2000
University of Manitoba

Postcolonial theory is one of the fastest growing areas of literary and cultural studies in Canada. This success brings to question the efficacy of studying Canadian culture beside the cultures of South Asia, the West Indies, and Africa, and in parallel with other settler-invader societies. The conference will address issues ranging from evolving definitions of the term 'postcolonial' to the changing dynamics of the Canadian literary canon.

Questions to be considered might include: do theories associated with postcolonialism -- such as those concerned with marginality, power, alterity, resistance, and historical revisionism -- apply constructively in/to a Canadian context? Is postcolonial theory in Canada racially or culturally grounded? What is the nature of postcoloniality in a global economic situation? Does the application of postcolonial theory in a Canadian context make some Canadian literature postcolonial? Are some Canadian writers more postcolonial than others? Can postcolonial theory be fruitfully applied to First Nations literatures? Is it possible for the discussion of postcoloniality to go beyond contemporary writing to include writing from earlier times? (Or is *The History of Emily Montague* postcolonial?) What is gained for the literature of Canada by conferring or denying postcolonial status? Papers might approach such questions on a broad theoretical basis or through the critical consideration of particular texts. It is hoped that a publication will be drawn from the proceedings.

Send 300-500 word proposals for individual papers, panels, or sessions, by January 10, 2000, to Professor Laura Moss, Department of English, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5V5 or by e-mail: moss1@ms.umanitoba.ca.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES GREENWOOD PRESS

Inquiries are invited from potential contributors to a one-volume encyclopedia of postcolonial studies, under contract with Greenwood Press. Essays will be of various lengths (to be assigned) ranging from 300 to 5100 words, on principal figures and topics. Contributions will be required by March, 2000. The volume will cover literature and theory in all languages, not only anglophone. For details and a list of available topics, please contact

John C. Hawley, Dept. of English, Santa Clara
University, Santa Clara CA 95053
Email: <JHawley@scu.edu>
URL: <http://eserver.org/calls/233978>
Due By: Friday, March 31, 2000

2001: A POSTCOLONIAL ODYSSEY SPECIAL ISSUE OF *ARIEL*

Speculative fiction (including science fiction, fantasy, horror, and magic realism) concerns itself with many of the themes that preoccupy postcolonial authors and critics, for example, alien-ness and alienation, travel and the discovery of possible new worlds, territorial expansion and imperialism. This special issue of *ARIEL* will explore the complex responses of speculative literature and film to "real world" conditions; it will also focus attention on otherwise neglected writers from around the world who are working within and transforming the genre. Completed essays due by 30 July 2000. For further information, contact Nancy E. Batty (Nancy.Batty@rdc.ab.ca). For general information concerning *ARIEL*, including guidelines for contributors, see our web page (<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~ariel/>).

SMALL CULTURES: THE LITERATURE OF MICRO-STATES Shirley Geok-Lin Lim and Elaine Ho, University of Hong Kong

Most English-speaking micro-states are former colonies; many are islands. Authors from these small and emerging cultures often face enormous difficulties establishing themselves in an international literary marketplace. For this special issue of *ARIEL*, we invite essays on the literature of such micro-states as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados,

Belize, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, Kiribati, the Maldives, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Namibia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Seychelles, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Trinidad, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. We also invite essays that develop theoretical approaches appropriate to these literatures. Completed essays due by 30 August 2000. For further information, contact Patricia Srebrnik (srebrnik@ucalgary.ca). For general information concerning *ARIEL*, including guidelines for contributors, see our web page (<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~ariel/>).

**WORLD "YOUTH" CULTURES:
TRANSNATIONAL MOVEMENTS AND LOCAL HYBRIDITIES**
Edited by Donald E. Hall, California State University, Northridge

This special issue of *ARIEL* will examine the intersection of postcolonial theory and the study of transnational youth movements and local youth cultures and subcultures. Possible topics include music and music cultures; representations of youth in literature and film; the emergence of youth "street" cultures; youth self-representations in art, dance, clothing, and graffiti; and youth slangs and language hybridities. Of special interest are the exploration of how constructs such as "youth," "adolescent," "young adult," and "child" encode national traditions, colonial impositions, and postcolonial negotiations. Completed essays due 15 December 2000. For further information, contact Donald E. Hall (donald.hall@csun.edu). For general information concerning *ARIEL*, including guidelines for contributors, see our web page (<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~ariel/>).

**UNSETTLED SPACES: RECONFIGURATIONS OF PLACE,
IDENTITY, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**
Duke University Graduate Program in Literature

How are identity-based politics performed within specific configurations of space? In this conference scheduled for March 31 - April 2, 2000 we aim to investigate the ways in which marginalized subjects have constructed "safe" spaces for themselves, especially in reaction to inequitable delineations of both material and imaginary territories. In particular, this conference will look at cases in which complexities ranging from changes in global flows of capital, information and labor to exclusionary practices lying beneath supposedly inclusive forms of community infiltrate and "unsettle" these attempts to create clear and distinct boundaries of political affiliation. This conference will be a focused event with no concurrent panels designed to spark productive intellectual debate on one aspect of identity and its construction. Especially welcome are submissions from disciplines such as public policy, political science, law, sociology and history, as part of our conference will be devoted to analyzing specific problems in domestic and international policy.

We invite one page paper abstracts and/or panel proposals on topics such as the following:

- Mainstream spaces: suburbs, frat/sorority houses, financial districts.
- Politicized sexual spaces: redlight districts, prostitution streets, bathhouses.
- Community spaces: the Castro district, Chinatowns, Harlem.
- Youth subcultures: bars, clubs, malls, movie theaters, street corners.
- Performative spaces: parades, marches, demonstrations, sitins.
- The Internet: chat rooms, realtime video, email, classrooms.
- Public posing: drag shows, racial visibility, self fashionings.
- Legal spaces: voter redistricting, Indian reservations, nationstates.
- Transnational spaces: borders, factories, markets.
- Academic spaces: classrooms, departments, identity based studies.



Please include with your submission a cover sheet providing your name, institutional affiliation, address, phone number, and email. 8-10 page doublespaced essays will also be accepted.

Submissions may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to Unsettled Spaces, Attn: David Woodard, Literature Program, Box 90670, Duke University, Durham, NC 277080670, USA, or faxed to (919) 684-3598, or emailed to dmw9@duke.edu
URL: <http://eserver.org/calls/?34278>

Due By: Saturday, January 15, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to Uma Parameswaran' whose collection of short stories, *What was Always Hers*, won the 1999 New Muse Award and has been published by Broken Jaw Press, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Clements, President-Elect of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada. Dr. Clements will serve one year as President-Elect, followed by two years as President and one additional year on the Executive as Past President.

Your CACLALS Team

Left to right: Dr. Wendy Robbins, President, Susan Miller, Administrator, and Robin Sutherland, Secretary/Treasurer.



Wendy Robbins

Susan Miller

Robin Sutherland

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Notes

