

Chimo



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Chimo

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Chimo (Chee'mo) greetings [Inuit]

Editor: Susan Gingell

Book Reviews Editor: Margery Fee

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Please address editorial and business correspondence to

Susan Gingell, Editor, *Chimo*, Department of English,
University of Saskatchewan, 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7N 5A5
or susan.gingell@usask.ca.

Please address correspondence related to reviews to

Margery Fee, Reviews Editor, *Chimo*, Department of English, University of British Columbia,
#397-1873 East Mall, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1
or margery.fee@ubc.ca.

The Editors appreciate receiving all extended submissions in electronic form (Microsoft Word, if possible). The Editors reserve the right to amend phrasing and punctuation in items accepted for publication in *Chimo*.

Please address membership correspondence to

Kristina Fagan, Secretary-Treasurer, CACLALS, Department of English, University of
Saskatchewan, 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7N 5A5
or kristina.fagan@usask.ca

On the cover: *Three Birds*, 2003, ink on paper, by Damon Badger Heit. Badger Heit holds a BA in Indian Art and English from the First Nations University of Canada, is a member of the Mistawasis First Nation, and resides in Regina. His art-making is education-based, and he has worked as an art instructor for youth programs in schools through organizations like the MacKenzie Art Gallery and Common Weal Inc., producing a number of public art works with youth at Regina's Connaught and Thompson Community Schools. Damon currently works as the Coordinator of First Nations and Métis Initiatives at SaskCulture Inc., a non-profit volunteer-driven organization that supports cultural activity throughout the province.

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The Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This pre-conference issue of *Chimo* comes chiefly to give you the latest information about our financial picture and the exciting line-up of speakers and presentations of creative work for the Fredericton iteration of our annual conference, this year on the theme of Coast and Continents: Exploring People and Places. The final conference program with abstracts can be found following the Secretary-Treasurer's report, and it shows a healthy diversity of work by our members as well as providing information about our keynote speaker Ian Baucom and his presentation, "The Human Shore: Postcolonial Studies in the Age of Natural Science"; our plenary speaker Victor Li and his address, "Making the World Disappear: Globalization as Allegory"; El Jones's Spoken-Word Performance; Michael Crummey's reading and interview by Cynthia Sugars; and Armand Garnet Ruffo's introduction of and showing of his movie *A Windigo Tale*. Our members will also have the opportunity to hear two Big Thinking Session speakers, Kwame Anthony Appiah on "Society Matters: Why Should We Value the Humanities?" and Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo on "First Nations Education: Can We Afford to Miss Out?" I wish to express my gratitude to John Ball, who is serving as our local arrangements coordinator for the conference, and to Josh Prescott, graduate student executive member, who, as his final services to the present CACLALS executive will be doing double duty providing on-the-ground assistance to help our events run smoothly, and preparing to write the conference report.

This President's report also gives me the opportunity to thank all the executive members for their ready responses and suggestions when I consulted via email with them, and for their help vetting regular conference submissions (Gugu Hlongwane and Philip Mingay) and those proposals submitted for the Graduate Student Presentation Prize panel (Kofi Campbell). Thanks are also due to Diana Brydon for this latter task and to Hugh Hodges for filling in as judge of the finalists' panel when Kofi was unable to secure funding to attend the conference. My gratitude also goes out to Margery Fee for editing the reviews section of the fall *Chimo*; no reviews were ready for this number, but Margery promises a robust section for the next number. Finally, to Kristina Fagan, who, despite the demands of her new job as Assistant Dean Aboriginal Affairs in the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan (congratulations, Kristina!), wrestled our financial and membership numbers into shape for the report that follows immediately after mine.

Those who are not able to attend this year's AGM are invited to contact me or any other executive member to share your suggestions for speakers for next year's conference in Waterloo, and to let us know your views about important issues facing the organization, including a significant pull-back in funding by the Commonwealth Foundation initially reported

on in the Fall *Chimo*, and what if any CACLALS' response should be to the federal government's undermining of Library and Archives Canada (LAC). I have asked CFHSS representatives who will visit our AGM to address the membership on this latter issue, and have already expressed preliminary support, pending consultation with the CACLALS membership, to James Turk, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) for the CAUT campaign to restore necessary funding and professional librarian and archivists' direction to the operations of LAC. I am planning on proposing to the AGM a day on pedagogy related to our field of study, so if you have views on this proposal that you would like presented to the meeting, please contact me before Friday, 27 May. Any graduate students interested in serving on the CACLALS executive for a two-year period from 2011-13 but not able to attend the Fredericton Congress are invited to identify themselves to me or let their supervisor know that they would be willing to serve.

I will be on sabbatical next year from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and during that time will be a Visiting Scholar at the University of British Columbia, so any snail-mail correspondence with me in this period should be addressed c/o Department of English, University of British Columbia, #397-1873 East Mall, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1. My email address will remain the same. For a yet-to-be-determined (but certainly winter!) month, I will be at the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica, and responding to email less frequently.

Susan Gingell, President

GREETINGS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Having recently taken over the position of Secretary-Treasurer (in August 2010), I would like to thank Susan Spearey, past secretary-treasurer, and Susan Gingell for their help in making the transition.

The 2010 Conference in Montreal was a success, with 79 registrants. 20 graduate student and unwaged members requested travel grants (funded by SSHRC) and 16 received them.

We currently have 209 members, of which 4% are honorary members, 38% are permanent employees of a university or college, and 58% are graduate students, sessionals, post-docs, or unwaged. This year, CACLALS moved to a new online membership registration system, created by CFHSS. The cost of setting up this system was \$500, and the annual cost will be \$150/year. This is more expensive than the previous IATS system. However, once people have for the first time taken out or renewed their memberships online at the caclals.ca site, the CFHSS system will maintain an up-to-date membership list and send out automated membership reminder notices, thus significantly reducing the work of the Secretary-Treasurer. If you have not yet renewed your membership this year, please do so as soon as possible. The new system will also enable us to do statistical analysis of our membership information, which may allow us to better customize our work to our members' interests. For instance, we will be able to see how many members do research on various national literatures.

As usual, we applied for a Commonwealth Foundation grant in December, but there have been difficulties transferring the funds to the ACLALS office in the West Indies and hence to the national associations. However, I am told that the Commonwealth Foundation money will be coming before Congress.

A reminder to all graduate students, sessionals, and unwaged members to save your Congress travel receipts. For those presenters who have no or only partial travel funding, we will attempt to cover a portion of your travel costs (but are not able to help with accommodation or food costs). The amount that we will be able to contribute toward individuals' costs will depend on the number and needs of applicants. Please submit by June 30th, 2011, (a) correspondence indicating how much (if any) you will receive from your institution/source of funding toward travel, and (b) the original ticket. Please indicate if you need the latter returned to you and provide a mailing address and invoice if the total fare is not noted on the ticket (or is difficult to read). Applications for travel assistance should be sent to: Kristina Fagan, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan, 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5A5.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Congress!

Kristina Fagan, Secretary-Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Activity – Winter-Summer 2010

Income:

SSHRC travel assistance	\$3480.00
Commonwealth Association	7355.81
Grant for Aboriginal roundtable	250.00
Conference registration fees	1776.10
Memberships	2141.00
Total income:	\$15,002.91

Expenditures:

Congress 2010 keynote speakers:	
Carole Boyce Davies	\$2716.84
Diana Brydon	1966.10
Author Meets Critic session	200.00
Reading by Anita Rau Badami	250.00
Program design	250.00
Program printing	240.00
CHFSS expenses (Catering, Audio-Visual, etc.)	3486.10
Student travel expenses	3449.92
Total Expenses:	\$12,558.96

Activity – August 2011-present

Balance (August 6, 2010) **\$12,428.67**

Income:

Memberships (through CFHSS system)	\$1815.00
Memberships (through old IATS system)	290.00
Random House payment for Crummey expenses	200.00
SSHRC travel assistance for Congress 2011	3480.00
Interest on bank account	1.10
Total income:	\$5,786.10

(Note that the Commonwealth Foundation Grant is slow in arriving this year.)

Expenses:

Congress fees to CFHSS	
(based on expenses and revenues)	\$1776.10
Payments to IATS	180.80
CFHSS membership fees	1594.03
CFHSS new membership registration system	500.00
Payment to Blacksun	159.35
Payment to Armand Ruffo	100.00
Bank fees	18.73
Total expenses:	\$4,329.01
Balance May 8, 2011	\$14,162.91



**CACLALS: Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature
and Language Studies**

Coastlines and Continents: Exploring People and Places

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, May 28-30, 2011

Conference Program

Saturday, May 28

9:00-10:15am Apology, Reconciliation, Redress in Canada and Post-National Space (Tilley 104)

Chair: Philip Mingay

Jill Scott (Queen's), "Indigeneity and Apology: Where is the Aboriginal in Canada's Apologies?"

[Abstract](#)

Sophie McCall (Simon Fraser), "'Unsettling the Settler Within': Truth, Reconciliation, and Aboriginal Rights in Canada" [Abstract](#)

Brenda Carr Vellino and Sarah G. Waisvisz (Carleton), "Post-National Theatre of Redress: The Collaborative Ethics of the Steveston Noh Project" [Abstract](#)

9:00-10:15am Slavery Located and Reprised (Tilley 125)

Chair: Hugh Hodges (Trent)

Angelika Maeser Lemieux (Vanier), "The Intersections of Identity: Nation, Race and Class in Roger Buckley's *Congo Jack*" [Abstract](#)

Peter Walmsley (McMaster), "The Spectral Slave in Hans Sloane's Jamaica" [Abstract](#)

Rachael Wyatt (New Brunswick), "A New Take on the Postmodern Slave Narrative: Reflections and Inversions in Bernardine Evaristo's *Blonde Roots*" [Abstract](#)

10:30-11:40am Witnessing and Identity across Generations and Nations (Tilley 104)

Chair: Laura Moss

Jennifer Bowering Delisle (McMaster), "Witnessing across Continents: Second-Generation Nostalgia in the Age of Global Media" [Abstract](#)

Gillian Roberts (Nottingham), "Lawrence Hill's Crossings: Continents, Coastlines, and Borders in *Some Great Thing*, *Any Known Blood*, and *The Book of Negroes*" [Abstract](#)

Heidi Butler (New Brunswick), "The Unhomely Maritimes: Immigration and Assimilation in Rabindranath Maharaj's 'Bitches on All Sides'" [Abstract](#)

10:30-11:40am Regions and Continents: Acadia, the Postcolonial North, and North America (Tilley 125)

Chair: Jennifer Andrews

Michele Lacombe (Trent), "'The squatter' and «*la citoyenne à part entière*» -- La Sagouine among 'the savages'" [Abstract](#)

Camille van der Marel (Alberta), "Unsettled: The Poetics and Politics of Ownership in the Canadian North" [Abstract](#)

Brenna Clarke Gray (Douglas), "North American Literature: The Case for Douglas Coupland" [Abstract](#)

12:00-1:00pm Congress “Big Thinking” Session (Kinsella Theatre, McCain Hall)

Kwame Anthony Appiah (Princeton), “Society Matters: Why Should We Value the Humanities?” [Abstract](#)

Kwame Anthony Appiah is a world renowned philosopher, cultural theorist, and novelist. A humanist with a vast oeuvre, Dr. Appiah has tackled everything from race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, religion, and nationhood, to multiculturalism. Along the way, he has critically examined and questioned the individual, our identities, and the way we interact and connect with each other. Dr. Appiah has taught philosophy and African-American studies at the Universities of Ghana, Colombia, Drexel, Cornell, Yale, Harvard, and Princeton and is currently the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He is the President of the PEN American Center and the Chair of the board of the American Council for Learned Societies.

1:15-2:35pm Keynote Address by Ian Baucom (Tilley 102), a joint session with ACCUTE, with funding assistance from the CFHSS International Keynote Speaker Fund

Chair: John C. Ball

Ian Baucom (Duke), “The Human Shore: Postcolonial Studies in the Age of Natural Science” [Abstract](#)

Ian Baucom is Professor of English and Director of the Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University. He works on twentieth-century British literature and culture, postcolonial and cultural studies, and African and Black Atlantic literatures. He has authored *Out of Place: Englishness, Empire and the Locations of Identity* (1999) and *Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History* (2005), and co-edited *Shades of Black: Assembling Black Arts in 1980s Britain* (2005). His current book project is a study tentatively entitled *The Disasters of War: On Inimical Life*.

3:15-4:30pm Outcastings: Bare Life and African Literatures (Tilley 104)

Chair: Peter Walmsley

Hugh Hodges (Trent), “Bare Life and the Beast of No Nation in Chris Abani's Nigeria” [Abstract](#)

Alessandra Capperdoni (Simon Fraser), "Ecologies of Life: Nuruddin Farah's Somalia and the 'Failed State' Economy" [Abstract](#)

3:15-4:30pm On Edge(s): Ecological Degradation and Xenophobia (Tilley 125)

Chair: Romita Choudhury

John C. Ball (Fredericton), "'The Shimmering Edge': Surfing, Risk, and Adolescent Ecology in Tim Winton's *Breath*" [Abstract](#)

Susie O'Brien (McMaster), "The Black Swan and the Ugly Duckling: Liberal Xenophobia in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*" [Abstract](#)

4:45-5:45pm Spoken-Word Performance and Talk-back by El Jones (Carleton 139) [Abstract](#)

Introduction: Susan Gingell

El Jones is a spoken-word activist, a poet, and a teacher currently completing her PhD in English literature at Dalhousie University. El uses spoken-word poetry to speak openly and fearlessly about the social and political issues that affect the daily lives of people of African ancestry. Beginning in more traditional poetry forms, El discovered spoken word as a way to make her voice heard in public venues. In 2008 she won the CBC Poetry Faceoff in Halifax.

7:00pm CACLALS No-Host Dinner: Chez-Riz, 366 Queen Street, phone 454-9996

Sunday, May 29

9:00-10:15am Graduate Student Prize Presentation Panel (Tilley 104)

Prizes sponsored by RandomHouse Canada, publisher of Michael Crummey's *Galore*, 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize winner for Canada and the Caribbean, and by HarperCollins Canada, publisher of Rana Dasgupta's *Solo*, 2010 winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Novel Award; and judged by Diana Brydon, Hugh Hodges, and Susan Gingell

Chair: Margery Fee

Jesse Arseneault (McMaster), "Animal Movements and Postcolonial Geographies" [Abstract](#)

Jessie Forsyth (McMaster), "Just a Speculation: Epistemological Economies in Equiano's *Interesting Narrative*" [Abstract](#)

Amanda Perry (British Columbia), "Sounding Out Cross-Cultural Relations in Edward Kamau Brathwaite's *Rights of Passage*" [Abstract](#)

10:30 am-12:00 noon Aboriginal Roundtable: The Role of Aboriginal Religion and Spirituality in the Study of Indigenous Literatures and Oratures (Tilley 5), with funding assistance from the CFHSS Aid to Interdisciplinary Sessions Fund

Convenor: Kristina Fagan (Saskatchewan)

Invited Participants: Andrea Bear Nicholas (St. Thomas)
Margery Fee (British Columbia)
Armand Ruffo (Carleton)

12:00 noon-1:00pm CACLALS Executive Meeting (Tilley 104)

1:30-2:45pm Troubling Borders and Boundaries (Tilley 104)

Chair: John C. Ball

Josh Prescott (New Brunswick), "Troubling the Borderland: Mapping and Remapping in Dionne Brand's *Land to Light On*" [Abstract](#)

Sharlee Reimer (McMaster), "Gender and Geopolitical Space: Imagined Possibilities in Contemporary 'Canadian' Literatures" [Abstract](#)

Sarah Brophy (McMaster), "Queer Intimacies and Post-imperial Histories in Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*" [Abstract](#)

1:30-2:45pm Place, Belonging, and History in Newfoundland and Labrador (Tilley 125)

Chair: Jennifer Bowering Delisle

Linda MacKinley-Hay (Independent Scholar), "Phalometers and Bridges: Exploring Place and Out of Place in Kathleen Winter's *Annabel*" [Abstract](#)

Michael Collins (Toronto), "Oddly's Island: Newfoundlandish Heterotopia in Jessica Grant's *Come, Thou Tortoise*" [Abstract](#)

Kristina Fagan (Saskatchewan), "'The Tyranny of the Fact': The Escape from Newfoundland History in Michael Crummey's *Galore*" [Abstract](#)

3:00-4:30pm Michael Crummey, A Reading and Interview with Cynthia Sugars (Tilley 102), a joint session with ACQL/ALCQ, and with funding assistance from the CFHSS Aid to Interdisciplinary Sessions fund

Michael Crummey is a poet, short-fiction writer, and novelist from Newfoundland. His works include *Hard Light*, *Flesh and Blood*, *River Thieves*, and *The Wreckage*. His third novel, *Galore*, won the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Canada and the Caribbean and is a finalist for the 2011 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

5:00-7:00pm President's Reception (Ballroom Student Union Building)

7:30pm *Macbeth*

Bard in the Barracks production of *Macbeth*, in which CACLALS stalwart John Clement Ball plays Duncan and the Doctor. Runs May 28-June 2, 7:30 pm nightly at Odell Park. Tickets are available on site or online at www.regonline.com/macbeth, at a price of \$14.50 regular and \$10.50 for students (plus a \$3.50 processing fee). Attendance is capped at 150 per performance, so online booking is recommended.

Monday, May 30

9:00-10:15am Feasts, Exhibitions, and Prizes in Canadian and Transnational Spaces (Tilley 104)

Chair: Alessandra Capperdoni

Antonia Smith (Vancouver Island), "Local Feast: Food, Culture, and Identity in Timothy Taylor's *Stanley Park* and Bill Gaston's *The Order of Good Cheer*" [Abstract](#)

Guy Beauregard (National Taiwan), "Remnants of Empire: Roy Kiyooka, Osaka, 1970" [Abstract](#)

Sophie McCall (Simon Fraser) and Laura Moss (British Columbia), "Teaching Literary Prizes: A Critical Dialogue on Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy" [Abstract](#)

9:00-10:15am (Tilley 125) On the Grounds of Gender and Race: Transformations, Reconciliation, and Creativity

Chair: Angelika Maeser Lemieux

Alison Toron (New Brunswick), "Magical Transformations: Humour, Gender, and Racialization in Suzette Mayr's *Moon Honey*" [Abstract](#)

Alicia Robinet (Western Ontario), "'They were orphans': Transnational Reconciliation and White Civility in the Home Children Case" [Abstract](#)

Max Haiven (Mount St. Vincent), "The Creative Work of Race" [Abstract](#)

10:30-11:50am Plenary Address by Victor Li (Tilley 404)

Chair: Diana Brydon

Victor Li (Toronto) "Making the World Disappear: Globalization as Allegory" [Abstract](#)

Victor Li is Associate Professor of English and Faculty Member of the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. Dr Li taught at the National University of Singapore, University of British Columbia, and Dalhousie University before joining the University of Toronto in 2004. His research interests include contemporary critical and literary theory, postcolonial literatures, globalization studies, theories of modernity, primitivism, and the

intersection of anthropology and literature. Co-editor of *The University of Toronto Quarterly*, he is the author of *The Neo-Primitivist Turn: Critical Reflections on Alterity, Culture, and Modernity* (2006) and of many journal articles on modern literature, postcolonial theory, the uses of primitivism, and the problems of globalization.

12:15-1:20pm Congress “Big Thinking” Session (Kinsella Auditorium in McCain Hall)

Chief Shawn Atleo, “First Nations Education: Can We Afford to Miss Out?”

Chief Shawn Atleo is National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and a Hereditary Chief from the Ahousaht First Nation. He graduated in 2003 from the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, with a Master’s of Education in Adult Learning and Global Change. Chief Atleo’s commitment to education was recognized when he was named Chancellor of Vancouver Island University, becoming British Columbia’s first indigenous Chancellor. [Abstract](#)

1:45-3:00pm Belonging in India: Places, Spaces, and Subject Locations (Tilley 104)

Chair: Prabhjot Parmar

Anindo Hazra (York), “The Queer Seawall in Vikram Chandra’s ‘Artha’” [Abstract](#)

Paulomi Chakraborty (Indian Institute of Technology), “‘Rivers ran in our heads, the tides were in our blood’: Landscape, Place, and the Politics of Belonging in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide*” [Abstract](#)

Romita Choudhury (Athabaska), “Maternal Theorists: Ethical Feminism and Gandhian Imperatives” [Abstract](#)

3:15-3:55pm Celebration Session (Tilley 104), with funding assistance from UBC Press, U of Toronto Press, SCL/ÉLC, and the Department of English, UNB

Marking of 35th Anniversary: Studies in Canadian Literature/Études en littérature canadienne (SCL/ÉLC)

Book Launches:

- Jennifer Andrews, *In the Belly of a Laughing God: Humour and Irony in Native Women's Poetry* (U of Toronto P)
- John Clement Ball, ed., *Twentieth-Century World Fiction*, vol. 3 of *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction* (Wiley)

- Sophie McCall, *First Person Plural: Aboriginal Storytelling and the Ethics of Collaborative Authorship* (UBC P)

Book Notices:

- Ashok Mathur, Jonathan Dewar, and Mike DeGagné, eds., *Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity* (Aboriginal Healing Foundation)
- Daniel Coleman and Smaro Kamboureli, eds., *Retooling the Humanities: The Culture of Research in Canadian Universities* (U of Alberta P)

4:00-5:30pm Awarding of Graduate Student Presentation Prize and CACLALS AGM (pizza and drinks served) (Tilley 104)

7:30-10:00pm Armand Garnet Ruffo, *A Windigo Tale: An Introduction, Screening, and Q&A* (Tilley 102), a joint session with ACQL/ALCQ

Chair: Kristina Fagan

Abstracts

Kwame Anthony Appiah, “Society Matters: Why Should We Value the Humanities?”

Universities today exist in a complex and sometimes uncertain environment. Our institutions are at the centre of a digital revolution that is transforming the way we learn and interact. It is turning human creativity into a powerful asset for a globalized world. Navigating the halls of North America’s institutions and campuses, today’s authors and scholars are inventing a new narrative about the civic, cultural, and social value of their work. This “Big Thinking” lecture explores the ramifications of this rich new narrative and will look at the value of the humanities in the context of an increasingly globalized and pluralist world. [Return to program](#)

Jesse Arseneault, “Animal Movements and Postcolonial Geographies”

This paper gives a theoretical analysis of postcolonial geographies through the lens of animality theory. It suggests that animals are agents that we need to consider when rethinking imperial geographies. Because of animals’ capacity for movement beyond imperial representations of nature, they represent a formidable resistance to imperial paradigms of mapping. [Return to program](#)

Chief Shawn Atleo, “First Nations Education: Can We Afford to Miss Out?”

Chief Atleo wants to inject an additional \$71-billion into the Canadian economy over the next 10 years and benefit from an under-tapped pool of talent. In a recent call-to-action, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations made a passionate plea to all governments, education institutions and private and public sector organizations to support his vision, one that will provide a foundation for growth for the next generation of First Nations Canadians. Canada’s First Nations are the youngest and fastest growing population in the country. Yet the education gap between First Nations Canadians and all other Canadians is real. Their social and economic future is Canada’s. For this “Big Thinking” event, Chief Atleo will share his vision for Aboriginal education and chart the steps leading to a more accessible, equitable, and supportive post-secondary education system. [Return to program](#)

John C. Ball, “‘The Shimmering Edge’: Surfing, Risk, and Adolescent Ecology in Tim Winton’s *Breath*”

Breath (2008), Tim Winton’s coming-of-age surfing novel, encourages links between the risk-taking of adolescent males and that of a society teetering on the edge of oceanic climate change. This paper draws on cultural geography, risk theory, adolescent psychology, and the sociology of surfing to provide an ecocritical reading of *Breath*. [Return to program](#)

Ian Baucom, “From Bare Life to Species-Being: Postcolonial Studies in the Age of Natural Science”

The humanities are in the midst of a moment of paradigm shift, one in which our conceptions of what it means to be human are being significantly transformed by developments in the natural sciences (particularly genomics and neuroscience but also environmental science). Taking the notions of “bare life” and “species being” as its points of departure, this talk examines the implications of this shift for the future of postcolonial studies. [Return to program](#)

Guy Beauregard, “Remnants of Empire: Roy Kiyooka, Osaka, 1970”

This paper discusses Roy Kiyooka’s poetic and photographic sequence *StoneDGloves*, a text he produced while working at the Canadian Pavilion at Expo ’70 in Osaka. It argues that engaging with Kiyooka’s text provides an opportunity to rethink world exhibitions as technologies intimately tied to the organization and display of Empire. [Return to program](#)

Sarah Brophy, “Queer Intimacies and Post-imperial Histories in Alan Hollinghurst’s *The Line of Beauty*”

This paper offers the first sustained reading of cross-racial intimacies and their implications in Alan Hollinghurst’s Booker-prize-winning novel *The Line of Beauty* (2004). Drawing on theories of “orientation” (Ahmed) and “homing desires” (Fortier) from queer and postcolonial theory, I read the novel as a retrospective exploration of 1980s queer political consciousness as it emerged within and against the desire to be accepted into the English social elite, whose privileges manifest most attractively and problematically in their elegant dwellings.

Hollinghurst’s novel attempts obliquely to anticipate queer claims on social and national belonging which will be something different from ‘wistfully keen’ (Hollinghurst) and which will go beyond simplistic myths of pluralistic accommodation to recognise the necessity for scepticism, for alliances which necessarily transgress everyday boundaries, and for endurance.

[Return to program](#)

Heidi Butler, “The Unhomely Maritimes: Immigration and Assimilation in Rabindranath Maharaj’s ‘Bitches on All Sides’”

In the short story “Bitches on All Sides,” Rabindranath Maharaj challenges Fredericton’s dominant culture by rendering the city’s familiar gathering places unfamiliar. When Maharaj defamiliarizes readers with these spaces, he demonstrates that public places, attitudes, and policies must be reconsidered as Maritime demographics continue to change. [Return to](#)

[program](#)

Alessandra Capperdoni, “Ecologies of Life: Nuruddin Farah’s Somalia and the ‘Failed State’ Economy”

This paper discusses Somali exile author Nuruddin Farah’s fiction as a critical intervention into the discourse about Somalia as a nation ridden by anarchy and chaos and, therefore, “a failed State” in the context of economic and political forces operating at the local and global level.

[Return to program](#)

Paulomi Chakraborty, “‘Rivers ran in our heads, the tides were in our blood’: Landscape, Place, and the Politics of Belonging in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide*”

This paper reads Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide* (2004) as a novel that brings to crisis the centrality of both national and continental consciousnesses in constituting political belonging in the way it constructs imaginaries of place and territoriality. [Return to program](#)

Romita Choudhury, “Maternal Theorists: Ethical Feminism and Gandhian Imperatives”

The discourse of the postcolonial intellectual largely assumes the middle-class cosmopolitan male intellectual as subject of investigation. Relating two apparently discrete contexts of

postcolonial subjectivity – Indian women’s writing in English and the discourse of the intellectual – raises the problem of cultural self-representation in distinctive ways. [Return to program](#)

Jennifer Bowering Delisle, “Witnessing across Continents: Second-Generation Nostalgia in the Age of Global Media”

In her memoir *The Orange Trees of Baghdad*, second-generation Canadian Leilah Nadir recounts fond, intimate family stories of Iraq, and bears witness to the suffering in her father’s homeland. I show how the second generation negotiates between nostalgia for a lost home and the excess of information generated by transnational media. [Return to program](#)

Kristina Fagan, “‘The Tyranny of the Fact’: The Escape from Newfoundland History in Michael Crummey’s *Galore*”

The characters of Michael Crummey’s *Galore* live in a fictional Newfoundland outpost in an undefined time. While the novel does represent historical forces of religious discrimination and economic exploitation, the characters primarily inhabit a mythical world of ghosts, curses, and miracles. I will critically investigate *Galore*’s turn away from history. [Return to program](#)

Jessie Forsyth, “Just a Speculation: Epistemological Economies in Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*”

This paper explores Olaudah Equiano’s 1789 ex-slave narrative for the ways in which discursive and commercial speculation (drawing from Baucom’s work on the Zong) open up Equiano’s space for subject-formation. Despite ostensibly remaining bound within Eurocentric epistemologies that deem Equiano a racialized, commodified non-subject, Equiano participates in and changes discourses. [Return to program](#)

Brenna Clarke Gray, “North American Literature: The Case of Douglas Coupland”

This paper examines Douglas Coupland in relation to issues of continental literature in North America. Coupland’s border-straddling work allows for the examination of a critical need to stake national claims, the study of cross-border issues, and the usefulness and limitations of a pan-North American critical framework. [Return to program](#)

Michael Collins, “Oddly’s Island: Newfoundlandish Heterotopia in Jessica Grant’s *Come, Thou Tortoise*”

In her 2010 debut novel *Come, Thou Tortoise*, Jessica Grant radically reinterprets Newfoundland’s physical and cultural otherness. She constructs Newfoundland not as a ghostly remnant but as a vital Foucauldian heterotopia. My paper will explore the linguistic, cultural, and narrative construction of Grant’s vision of a queer, heterotopic Newfoundland. [Return to program](#)

Max Haiven, “The Creative Work of Race”

This paper seeks to rehistoricize the notion of “creative work” that animates current cultural, urban and economic policy. Drawing on several examples, I argue that the global economy has relied, since 1492, on the conscription of creativity to produce racialized differences as a necessary element of capitalist accumulation. [Return to program](#)

Anindo Hazra, “The Queer Seawall in Vikram Chandra's ‘Artha’”

This paper will argue that Vikram Chandra’s short story “Artha” traverses the uneven meeting-ground of “queer” and “India.” “Artha” engages in a complex analysis of the construction of categories such as “majority” and “minority” and reflects the ways in which queer Indian textual production extends from representations of sexuality to wider reflections on the normal. [Return to program](#)

Hugh Hodges, “Bare Life and the Beast of No Nation in Chris Abani’s Nigeria”

A discussion of Giorgio Agamben's concept of "bare life" and its necessary corollary "pure violence" as they play out in *Graceland*, *Song for Night* and other works by Chris Abani. [Return to program](#)

El Jones, “Spoken-Word Performance and Talk-Back”

Spoken-word activist, El Jones will perform and then engage in a talk-back about political art, engaging such questions as What is the role of art that explicitly engages issues such as race/gender/place/identity in the political struggle, and what are the limitations and possibilities of performance in this context? Is spoken word poetry an analytical vehicle for engaging a critical perspective, particularly perhaps within academic contexts (i.e. Can a spoken word piece be taken as a legitimate act of theoretical criticism? How does the exploration of these issues in the spoken word genre perform critically, as activism, or as a site of resistance/struggle?) [Return to program](#)

Michele Lacombe, “‘The squatter’ and « *la citoyenne à part entière* » – La Sagouine among ‘the savages’”

Antonine Maillet’s 1972 play *La Sagouine*, which came to embody the decolonization of Acadian citizenry, here is read as a well-intentioned but misguided appropriation of some aspects of Mi’kmaq culture. In particular, its use of "les Sauvages" to talk about the legal status of Acadian land, language, and identity does a disservice to both groups. [Return to program](#)

Angelika Maeser Lemieux, “The Intersections of Identity: Nation, Race and Class in Roger Buckley’s *Congo Jack*”

Roger N. Buckley's historical novel, *Congo Jack* (1997), set in 1802 in Dominica, revisits the mutiny of African slave soldiers of the British Eighth West India Regiment. The Nigerian protagonist's identity is shaped by nation, race and class against the background of exile, British imperialism, and Caribbean revolutionary struggles. [Return to program](#)

Victor Li, “Making the World Disappear: Globalization as Allegory”

Globalization sees the world as "world picture," as the world viewed through representational schemes. Globalization discourses are thus selective allegorical interpretations that elide details of the world that don't fit the reality they wish to highlight. As in allegory, the world has to disappear for globalization to establish its "truth." [Return to program](#)

Sophie McCall, “Unsettling the Settler Within’: Truth, Reconciliation, and Aboriginal Rights in Canada”

The paradoxical interaction of Weetigo and Weesageechak in Joseph Boyden’s *Three Day Road* and Tomson Highway’s *Kiss of the Fur Queen* invites us to consider a politics of reconciliation in grappling with legacies of colonial violence. These figures enable us to consider multiple sites of Indigenous sovereignty and the ‘settler within.’ [Return to program](#)

Sophie McCall and Laura Moss, “Teaching Literary Prizes: A Critical Dialogue on Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy”

What effect do literary prizes have on the production and reception of contemporary literature? What influences have international prizes had on the formation of postcolonial canons? In this dialogic paper we consider the challenges of teaching the politics of literary prizes, value, and the exigencies of publishing in the 21st century. [Return to program](#)

Linda MacKinley-Hay, “Phalometers and Bridges: Exploring Place and Out of Place in Kathleen Winter’s *Annabel*”

This paper examines Kathleen Winter's *Annabel* as it relates identity to place while focussing on a hermaphrodite born to a Labrador Metis trapper and a St. John's teacher. The novel also surveys journeys taken by those others who discover themselves and their places, fulfilling a human need to make a place for oneself. [Return to program](#)

Susie O'Brien, "The Black Swan and the Ugly Duckling: Liberal Xenophobia in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*"

This paper reads Mohsin Hamid's novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* as a critical commentary on the nexus of finance capitalism, security and xenophobia in post-9/11 US culture, with a particular focus on the geopolitics of the "black swan" (mathematician/philosopher Nassim Nicholas Taleb's term for the paradoxical inevitability of highly improbable events). [Return to program](#)

Amanda Perry, "Sounding Out Cross-Cultural Relations in Edward Kamau Brathwaite's *Rights of Passage*"

Drawing on the theories of Édouard Glissant and Jean-Luc Nancy, I analyze how Brathwaite uses sound in the record release of *Rights of Passage* to resist appropriation and challenge Western hermeneutic strategies and oral/written hierarchies. By destabilizing the process of signification, Brathwaite creates work to be listened to, not mastered. [Return to program](#)

Josh Prescott, "Troubling the Borderland: Mapping and Remapping in Dionne Brand's *Land to Light On*"

By working from the idea of the "door of no return," this paper examines the relationship between black consciousness and national self-imagining in Brand's *Land to Light On* (1997). [Return to program](#)

Sharlee Reimer, "Gender and Geopolitical Space: Imagined Possibilities in Contemporary 'Canadian' Literatures"

This paper seeks to theorize a pattern of non-normatively gendered characters who imagine different, more equitable geopolitical spaces than the nationalized ones they inherit as they emerge across a variety of literatures that fit uncomfortably under the rubric of "Canadian literature," while also leaving room for the emancipatory possibilities of drawing these lines, particularly for marginalized groups. [Return to program](#)

Gillian Roberts, "Lawrence Hill's Crossings: Continents, Coastlines, and Borders in *Some Great Thing*, *Any Known Blood*, and *The Book of Negroes*"

Arguing that the Canada-US border constitutes a primary site of the intersections of Canada's relationships to colonialism, postcolonialism, and neocolonialism, this paper traces Lawrence Hill's representations of Black identities in Canada, in both the past and the present, as they are configured and reconfigured at the borders of the nation-state. [Return to program](#)

Alicia Robinet, “They were orphans’: Transnational Reconciliation and White Civility in the Home Children Case”

This paper examines how attempts to reconcile the mass child migration movement from Britain to its colonies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries mobilize the figure of the child. I interrogate parliamentary proceedings, government apologies, and the play *Homechild* (2008), questioning the geopolitical negotiations of a transnational grievance. [Return to program](#)

Jill Scott, “Indigeneity and Apology: Where is the Aboriginal in Canada’s Apologies?”

This paper will provide a rhetorical and literary critical analysis of apologies issued to Canada's Aboriginal Peoples for harm caused by Residential Schools. The second part of this paper will specifically address the question of indigeneity and apology, asking how Canada’s apology could have accounted for the specificity of indigenous ways of knowing. [Return to program](#)

Antonia Smith, “Local Feast: Food, Culture, and Identity in Timothy Taylor’s *Stanley Park* and Bill Gaston’s *The Order of Good Cheer*”

This paper explores the ways that two recent BC novels engage with Canada’s complex colonial history through the device of the “local feast.” A close reading suggests that food as a literary theme needs fresh examination that considers ecology, indigeneity and globalization, moving beyond traditional lenses of gender and ethnicity. [Return to program](#)

Alison Toron, “Magical Transformations: Humour, Gender, and Racialization in Suzette Mayr’s *Moon Honey*”

Using feminist and critical race theories, this paper explores Suzette Mayr’s innovative use of magic realist conventions and feminist humour in her novel *Moon Honey* (1995). This paper argues that Mayr’s novel expands the realm of literary feminist humour from being solely concerned about gender to encompass other emancipatory goals. [Return to program](#)

Camille van der Marel, “Unsettled: The Poetics and Politics of Ownership in the Canadian North”

Although Canada is mapped and governed as a united nation, its colonization was fundamentally different in the South from in the North; these differences represent a rupture in the colonial histories of Canada’s already disparate halves. How then should we understand the Canadian Arctic as a zone of colonization? [Return to program](#)

Brenda Carr Vellino and Sarah G. Waisvisz, “Post-National Theatre of Redress: The Collaborative Ethics of the Steveston Noh Project”

This paper seeks to understand the approach and ethics of collaboration at the heart of Daphne Marlatt's intercultural, multi-genre, and bilingual play *The Gull*, a Noh play about the Japanese-Canadian fishing village of Steveston, BC. [Return to program](#)

Peter Walmsley, “The Spectral Slave in Hans Sloane’s Jamaica”

At the heart of Hans Sloane's *Voyage to Jamaica* (1707, 1725) there is a gap, an emptying out of living core of the imperial engine – the working body of the slave is nowhere to be seen. To read the *Voyage's* botanical descriptions and medical journal is to become increasingly aware of this spectral presence. [Return to program](#)

Rachael Wyatt, “A New Take on the Postmodern Slave Narrative: Reflections and Inversions in Bernardine Evaristo’s *Blonde Roots*”

An examination of the postmodern pastiche setting – with different times and places overlaid and referenced – of Bernardine Evaristo's *Blonde Roots* that examines the way the novel functions as a metafiction. The comic-tragic inversion of the novel reflects modern society to reveal the structure of underlying western ideologies to the reader. [Return to program](#)

MEMBER NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Jennifer Andrews reports the publication of her book *In the Belly of a Laughing God: Humour and Irony in Native Women's Poetry* (U of Toronto P).

John Clement Ball is editor of *Twentieth-Century World Fiction*, volume III of the recently published *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction* (Wiley-Blackwell 2011). This volume covers fiction in English from Canada, the West Indies, Africa, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, and many of its 196 entries were written by CACLALS members. The general editor of the *ETCF* is Brian W. Shaffer, and it is published in both print and electronic editions.

John invites those of you coming to Congress to spend an evening at Odell Park seeing the Bard in the Barracks production of *Macbeth*, in which he will be performing (as Duncan and the Doctor). See details in conference section of this issue of *Chimo*.

Ranjini Mendis sends notice that the Open Access journal *Postcolonial Text* published volume 5, number 4 (2009) in December 2010 under the new editorship of Chantal Zabus, and has just released volume 6, number 1 (2011). All numbers are freely available on an open-access basis at <http://postcolonial.org>.

The final number of volume 5 includes a review by CACLALS member Susie O'Brien of Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin's *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals and the Environment*, as well as other book reviews, and articles and creative writing likely to be of interest to CACLALS members. Ludivine Eva Royer reviews Jean-François Vernay's *Panorama du Roman Australien*; Christophe Dony considers *Detective Fiction in a Postcolonial and Transnational World* edited by Nels Pearson and Marc Singer; and Saadi Norman Nikro examines William V. Spanos's *The Legacy of Edward W. Said*. The number also includes the following articles: David W F Mount's "Dealing with Another Culture's Ghosts: Diaspora and Contact Zones in M. G. Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*"; Angelia Poon's "The 'swaying sense of things': Boey Kim Cheng and the Poetics of Imagined Transnational Space, Travel, and Movement"; Pramod K Nayar's "Postcolonial Affects: Victim Life Narratives and Human Rights in Contemporary India"; Anna-Leena Toivanen's "Remembering the Nation's Aching Spots: Yvonne Vera's Authorial Position of a Witness and Healer"; Anna Cavness's "Disseminating Shahrazad in Postcolonial Algeria"; and Meredith Ramirez Talusan's "Which Tongue To Speak With? Philippine Poetry and the Nature of Language." The creative writing featured is "Our Guilt Trips and their Exodus" by Babitha Marina Justin; "e-Kerala Poems" by Jennifer Anderson; and five poems by Nancy Anne Miller. The first number of volume 6 features two pieces by CACLALS members: Shannon Hengen's article "Little Perpetrators: the South African Voice of Antjie Krog" and Jill Didur's review of Sangeeta Ray's *Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: In Other Words*. Also of note are Stephanie May McKenzie and Shoshannah Ganz's "Salt Fish and Ackee: An Interview with Pamela Mordecai," centering mainly on the Jamaican writer's Creole retelling of the crucifixion story, *De Man*; and the following articles: Delphine Munos's "Relationality and the Transnational Indian Family in Shauna Singh Baldwin's 'Nothing Must Spoil this Visit,'" Michelle Giles's, "Postcolonial Gothic and *The God of Small Things*: The Haunting of India's Past," Alia Somani's "The Apology and its

Aftermath: National Atonement or the Management of Minorities?" and Raphael Dalleo's "Performing Postcoloniality in the Jamaican Seventies: *The Harder They Come* and *Smile Orange*." The reviews section also includes Siendou A. Konaté's "Béance or The Site of the Nomad's Realization: *L'Épreuve de la Béance. L'Écriture nomade chez Hédi Bouraoui* by Abderrahman Beggar" and Anna-Leena Toivanen's "*The Original Explosion that Created Worlds': Essays on Werewere Liking's Art and Writings*" edited by John Conteh-Morgan and Irène Assiba d'Alemeida. Poetry and fiction in this number are by Jane L. Fernandez ("Home and Exile"), Babitha Marina Justin ("Post Colonial Selves: My Country and Me"), Cyril Dabydeen ("Zeena"), Yacine Kais ("Healing Words"), and rajarshi mitra ("Those English Graves in Calcutta").

Uma Parmeswaran's novel *A Cycle of the Moon* (Tsar) has been nominated for Book of the Year award of the 2011 Manitoba Book Awards.

CACLALS EXECUTIVE 2010-2013

President

Susan Gingell
Department of English
University of Saskatchewan
9 Campus Dr.
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5

Secretary-Treasurer

Kristina Fagan
Department of English
University of Saskatchewan
9 Campus Dr.
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5

Past President

Neil ten Kortenaar
Centre for Comparative Literature
University of Toronto
93 Charles St W.
Toronto ON, M5S 1K9

Atlantic Representative

Gugu Hlongwane
Department of English
St. Mary's University
923 Robie Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3C3

Québec Representative

Jill Didur
Department of English
Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montréal, QB H3G 1M8

BC & Northern Territories Representative

Margery Fee
English Department
University of British Columbia
#397-1873 East Mall
Vancouver BC, V6R 1Z1

Ontario Representative

Kofi Campbell
Department of English
Wilfrid Laurier University
Laurier Brantford
73 George Street
Brantford, ON, N3T 2Y3

Colleges Representative

Philip Mingay
Department of English
King's University College
9125 - 50 Street
Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3

Graduate Student Representatives

Joshua Prescott (2009-2011)
English Department
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3

Jessie Forsyth (2010-12) Department of
English & Cultural Studies
Chester New Hall 321
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L9