

**Fact Sheet:**

*Restorying Canada: Reconsidering Religion and Public Memory / Resituer le Canada: Repenser la religion et la mémoire collective*

May 18-20, 2017

University of Ottawa, Institute of Canadian and Aboriginal Studies

**Organized by:**

Pamela Klassen (University of Toronto)

Emma Anderson (University of Ottawa)

Hillary Kaell (Concordia University)

**Participants:**

Andrew Taylor (University of Ottawa)

Anne Dance (ICAS, University of Ottawa)

Annie Smith St-Georges (Algonquin Elder)

Anny Morissette (Concordia University)

Ashley Caranto Morford (University of Toronto)

Ateeka Khan (McMaster University)

Aviv Milgram (Museum of Jewish Montreal)

Ayesha S. Chaudhry (University of British Columbia)

Cameron Montgomery (University of Ottawa)

Cary Takagaki (York University)

Carol Duncan (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Carolyn Podruchny (York University)

Chantal Fiola (University of Toronto)

Christina Pasqua (University of Toronto)

Cris Derksen (Cellist)

Danae A. Jacobson (University of Notre Dame)

Deirdre Meintel (University of Montreal)

Donald L. Boisvert (Concordia University)

Emma Anderson (University of Ottawa)

George Elliott Clarke (Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada, University of Toronto)

Gillian McCann (Nipissing University)

Henry Shiu (University of Toronto)

Hillary Kaell (Concordia University)

Jafer Waged (University of British Columbia)

Jane Barter (University of Winnipeg)

Jean-François Léger (Canadian Museum of History)

Jean-François Lozier (University of Ottawa)

Jean-Luc Pilon (Canadian Museum of History)

Jean-Philippe Warren (Concordia University)

Jenna Ferry (University of Calgary)

Jeremy Cohen (McMaster University)

Jon Johnson (First Story Toronto)

Joseph Weiss (Canadian Museum of History)

Karl Hele (Concordia University)

Kathryn Labelle (University of Saskatchewan)

Keith Hyde (University College of the North)  
Ken Derry (University of Toronto)  
Kent Monkman (Artist)  
Laurel Zwissler (Central Michigan University)  
Leah Kostamo (Author)  
Lisa Binkley (Queen's University)  
Marc Mayer (Director of the National Gallery of Canada)  
Margaret Atwood (Novelist and Poet)  
Marie-Pierre Bousquet (University of Montreal)  
Nadia Hasan (York University)  
Pamela Klassen (University of Toronto)  
Peter Bush (Minister, Westwood Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba)  
Richard Mann (Carleton University)  
Ryan Beaton (University of Victoria)  
Sailaja Krishnamurti (St Mary's University)  
Sarah King (Grand Valley State University)  
Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme (University of Waterloo)  
Shari Golberg (Founder of Shema & Iqra': The Jewish-Muslim Text Project)  
Sheema Khan (Writer for the Globe and Mail)  
Steve Martin (Director and Filmmaker)  
Solange Lefebvre (University of Montreal)  
Stacey Nation-Knapper (McMaster University)  
Thomas Peace (Huron College)  
Tracy Coats (University of Ottawa)  
Vanessa Udy (University of Victoria)  
Valérie Amiraux (University of Montreal)  
Zarqa Nawaz (Writer and Filmmaker)

**Student Team Member Participation:**

Christine Cusack (University of Ottawa)  
Judith Brunton (University of Toronto)  
Kaleigh McLelland (University of Toronto)  
Roxanne Korpan (University of Toronto)  
Scott Craig (University of Ottawa)  
Steven Tomlins (University of Ottawa)  
Zabeen Khamisa (University of Waterloo)  
Zaheeda Alibhai (University of Ottawa)

**Event Description:**

Restorying Canada was a three-day conference and public art event held at the University of Ottawa that brought together artists, poets, novelists, and scholars in the year of Canada's sesquicentennial. It asked how religion—and the ways it is remembered—has shaped the formation of Canada as a colonial and multicultural nation. Restorying Canada sought to inspire bold challenges to historiographic conventions of how we remember, to invite critique as well as celebration, and to explore multiple media and genres for evoking and interrogating the past.

The conference was organized by Emma Anderson (U of Ottawa), Hillary Kaell (Concordia University) and Pamela Klassen (U of Toronto), and featured presentations by scholars, graduate

students, artists, writers, filmmakers, educators, journalists, and community activists from across the country. Public keynote events brought together musician Cris Derksen, Poet Laureate of Canada George Elliott Clarke, visual artist Kent Monkman, novelist Margaret Atwood, and environmentalist Leah Kostamo. The complete conference programme can be found here: <http://artsites.uottawa.ca/restorying-canada/doc/Final-Programme-Restorying-Canada-18-20-May-2017.pdf>

**Results Dissemination:**

Restorying Canada provoked inspiring and challenging conversations about Canada's past, present, and future within and between academic, artistic, and broader public communities. These creative and critical re-imaginings of Canada's collective past and its ambiguous legacy will continue after the conference through the development of a public website.