

Canada: Homeland or Hostile Land?

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Transgressing the Nation-State: Constructs of Canadian Identity

As Canada approaches the 150th anniversary of Confederation, it is important to ask: how are systems of colonialism, racism, sexism, and other social and economic disparities that characterized the founding of this country still embedded in our society? The Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies welcomes exploration of these topics from multiple and competing perspectives at its annual conference on April 20th and 21st, 2017 at York University in Toronto. The conference will examine the dialogue surrounding Canadian identity by focusing on the current challenges to established forms of government, welfare policies and modes of participation in a radically changed globalized nation, where history, migration, and transnationalism play an important role. Presentations will offer an interdisciplinary analysis of opportunities provided and challenges faced in Canada's past, present and future.

Conference topics

- Exploitative Labour and Racialized Workers
- Meeting Grounds and the Difficult Work of Reconciliation
- Troubled Narratives / Troubling Narratives
- Erasure, (In)visibility, and Marginalization
- Orders of Regulation and Manifestations of Power
- Challenging Canadianness
- Sacraments of Space: Marking and Claiming Through Holy Ground
- Discourse on Disability in Canada
- Always Watching: Surveillance and the Control of Immigrant Bodies
- Looking In the Margins of Canadian Healthcare
- Contested Territories and Colonial Relationships

Thursday evening keynote address by

Bonita Lawrence (Mi'kmaw) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Equity Studies, where she teaches Indigenous Studies. She is a founding member of the undergraduate program in Race, Ethnicity and Indigeneity (now Multicultural and Indigenous Studies in the Department of Equity Studies). Her research and publications have focused primarily on urban, non-status and Metis identities, federally unrecognized Aboriginal communities, and Indigenous justice. She is the author of *Fractured Homeland: Federal Recognition and Algonquin Identity in Ontario* (UBC Press, 2012) and *"Real" Indians and Others: Mixed-Blood Urban Native People and Indigenous Nationhood* (University of Nebraska Press and UBC Press, 2004).

Friday film screening

Elder in the Making (Hidden Story Productions)

Film Screening and Discussion with Director Chris Hsiung