



February 2, 2015

8TH ANNUAL ETHNIC AND PLURALISM STUDIES GRADUATE
RESEARCH CONFERENCE: SUMMARY AND PHOTOS

By Momo Kano Podolsky



Harvey Professor Jeffrey Reitz gives opening remarks for the 8th Annual Ethnic and Pluralism Studies Graduate Research Conference

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR A MOST SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE!

Our annual two-day conference was held on January 29 and 30, 2015, and we would like to thank all who participated for making it one of our most successful events to date. All sessions were well attended and the keynote lecture by Professor John Borrows (Law, University of Victoria) saw a capacity crowd pack the very large Campbell Conference Facility.

As in past years we were fortunate to have an excellent group of presenters who came to share their research. The lineup of faculty member discussants who prepared thorough comments on each paper once again proved why our conference is so unique and popular among students in the field of ethnic studies. Being able to receive constructive, expert feedback in our convivial setting is a great preparation for more formal conference presentations.

The student committee worked very hard to set up the conference program, sifting through a large number of proposals. It is thanks to this rigorous selection process that we are able to maintain, if not elevate, the high caliber of presentations. The committee members also shared duties chairing the sessions, and ensured that the conference ran on schedule. All committee members are current participants in the Collaborative Program in Ethnic and Pluralism Studies, and some were presenters during the conference. I would like to give special thanks to: Hanane Benzidane, Maria Teresa Cappiali, Hannah Cohen, Victoria Heath, Scarlett Jones, Katherine Kawalerca, Joanna Leung, Hafeez Murji, Vita Takarenka, Yukiko Tanaka and Ian Van Haren for their contribution.

The following is a summary of the proceedings, with more details on individual presenters and papers available from the [8th Annual EPS Conference Program](#) and [8th Annual EPS Conference Abstracts](#)

DAY ONE: JANUARY 29, 2015

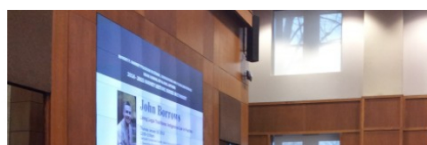
After opening remarks by Harvey Professor Jeffrey Reitz, the first session of the conference was on the topic of "Immigration". The discussant was Professor Vappu Tyyska from the Sociology Department at Ryerson University, with Scarlett Jones (SPPG, University of Toronto) serving as session chair. The presenters were Maria Teresa Cappiali (Political Science, University of Montreal) and Firat Kutadgu Sayin (DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University).



The second session on "Multiculturalism" was chaired by Maria Teresa Cappiali and featured presentations by Regina Thompson (Osgoode Hall Law School, York University), Johanne Jean-Pierre (Sociology, McMaster University), Scarlett Jones (SPPG, University of Toronto) and Yukiko Tanaka (Sociology, University of Toronto). Professor Russell Kazal (History, University of Toronto) was the discussant for this session.



After lunch break, conference participants moved to the Campbell Conference Facility for the keynote lecture: "Living Legal Traditions: Indigenous Law in Practice".



SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

Many of our faculty, students, and staff are online engaging in a vibrant discussion on ethnic, immigration, and pluralism studies. Join the conversation!

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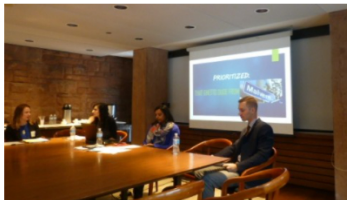
The lecture featured Professor John Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Victoria Law School. Professor Borrows teaches in the area of Constitutional Law, Indigenous Law, and Environmental Law. His publications include, *Recovering Canāda: The Resurgence of Indigenous Law* (Donald Smiley Award for the best book in Canadian Political Science, 2002), *Canada's Indigenous Constitution* (Canadian Law and Society Best Book Award 2011), *Drawing Out Law: A Spirit's Guide*, all from the University of Toronto Press. He is Anishinabe/Ojibway and a member of the Chippewa of the Nawash First Nation in Ontario, Canada.

A capacity crowd packed the large venue, and was captivated by Borrows' skilful storytelling that illustrated with a fable the seven principles of indigenous law. The talk was followed by a Q&A session during which members of the audience engaged in a very lively exchange with the speaker.

(This event was recorded and we will make an announcement on our website as soon as the video link becomes available.)



Session 3 of the conference was on "Law and Policy", with presentations by Dargine Rajeswaran (Social Justice Education, University of Toronto), Jonathan Kaenhonwen (Sociology, University of Toronto) and Rajwant Deo (Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University). Professor Grace-Edward Galabuzi (Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University) served as discussant for this session, with Victoria Heath (MGA, University of Toronto) chairing.



The last session of Day one was on "Identity", chaired by Hafeeza Murji (CERES, University of Toronto) and commented on by Professor Sarah Hillewaert (Anthropology, University of Toronto). The two presentations were given by Jacqueline Benin-John (Social Justice Education, University of Toronto) and Skylar Maharaj (Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University).



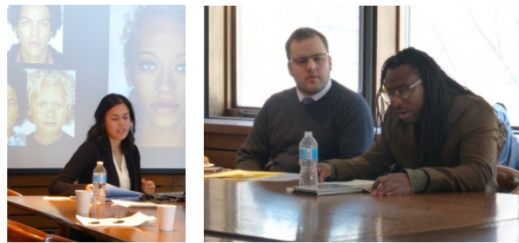
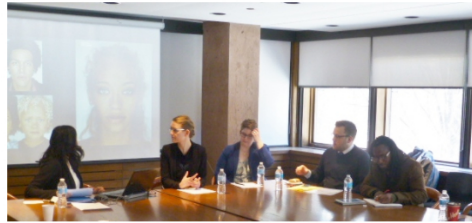
DAY TWO: JANUARY 30, 2015

Session 5 on "Health" started the second day of the conference. Professor Morton Beiser (Psychology, Ryerson University) gave his expert

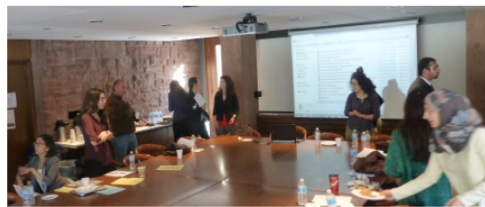
commentary on the presentations by Victoria Heath (MGA, University of Toronto), Ruth Rodney (Nursing, University of Toronto) and Chantel Spade (Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University). The session was chaired by Katherine Kawalerczak (CERES, University of Toronto).



Session 6 "Race" was chaired by Ian Van Haren (Sociology, University of Toronto) and Professor Rinaldo Walcott (Director, Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto) was the discussant for presentations by Rasha Darghawth (Anthropology, University of Toronto), Andrea Derbecker (Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto) and Zoe Gross (Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto).



The afternoon sessions started with Session 7 on "Religion". Hanane Benzidane (IRHR, University of Toronto) chaired, with Professor Joseph Bryant (Sociology, Religion, University of Toronto) serving as discussant. Four presenters gave their papers, Aisha Birani (Sociology/Migration and Ethnic Relations, University of Western Ontario), Helen Mo (Religion, University of Toronto), Ian Van Haren, and Usman Javed (Political Science, University of Western Ontario).



The last session of the conference, on "Gender" featured four papers as well. Safia Gahayr (Social Justice Education, University of Toronto), Keren Gottfried (Public Policy and Administration, Ryerson University), Bahar Hashemi (Sociology, University of Toronto) and Hiromi Noguchi (Communication and Culture, York University). Professor Rania Salem (Sociology, University of Toronto) discussed the papers, and Hanna Cohen (MGA, University of Toronto) chaired the session.

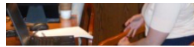


Once again we thank everyone who attended the conference and keynote lecture. We have already received very positive feedback from both the presenters and members of the audience, and hope to continue this tradition of excellence.

We will be back next year for the 9th edition of this graduate research conference on January 26 and 29, 2016 and hope that you can join us to hear another group of high-caliber graduate student presentations. We will be posting a call for papers in September 2015, so please visit our website often so as not to miss the notification.

See you all next year!





- Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy @**
University of Toronto
- 315 Bloor Street West (At the Observatory)
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 6A7 Canada
 - 1 Devonshire Place (At Trinity College)
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3K7 Canada
 - 14 Queen's Park Cres. West (At the Canadiana Gallery)
Toronto, ON M5S 3K9

General Inquiries: munkschool@utoronto.ca or (416) 946-8900

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