

February 1, 2016

9TH ANNUAL ETHNIC AND PLURALISM STUDIES GRADUATE  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE: SUMMARY AND PHOTOS

Our Annual Graduate Research Conference was held this year on January 28 and 29, 2016. This was the 9th year that we welcomed graduate students from various disciplines to present their research in the area of ethnic studies.

The conference program was set up by a student committee that included Fatima Altaf, Hannah Cohen, Victoria Heath, Emily Mooney, Francesca Pecora, Dirk Rodricks, and Jonathan Trefz. Committee members also participated in the conference as presenters and session chairs.

As in years past, we were fortunate to have the cooperation of excellent graduate faculty discussants, who took the time to examine each paper and prepared comments for the presenters. The discussants' names and departments are listed in the summary below. (for more details about each presentation please refer to the [full conference program](#) and [list of abstracts](#)).

## DAY ONE: JANUARY 28, 2016



The first session of the conference was on the topic of "Identity" and included presentations by Jessica Whitehead (Communication & Culture, York University) on the Italian-Canadian experience in Northern Ontario, Francesca Serena Pecora (Political Science, University of Toronto) on the 1964 Freedom Summer, and Maida Amir (Communication Studies and Multimedia, McMaster University) on the role of Cricket as a transnational media product.

Professor Neda Maghbouleh (Sociology, University of Toronto Mississauga) was the discussant, while Rochelle Wijesingha (Sociology, McMaster University) chaired the session.



Session 2, "Social Policy" was again chaired by Rochelle Wijesingha. The presenters were Sigrid Roman (Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, University of Toronto), Danielle Ridout (Munk School of Global Affairs, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto) and Anastasia Leshchyshtyn (CERES, University of Toronto).

Professor Rupaleem Bhuyan (Factor Inventash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto) provided comments on immigrant students in Canadian schools (Roman), the concept of nationality in the context of Olympic Games (Ridout), and child protection policy in Hungary and Romania (Leshchyshtyn).



In the afternoon, Dirk Rodricks (CTL, OISE, University of Toronto) chaired Session 3 on "Stories of Displacement". Professor Audrey Macklin (Faculty of Law, SPQ, University of Toronto) served as discussant. Man Xu (Sociology, University of Toronto) presented her case study of the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon, while Hessa Mire (Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University) spoke on the Somali refugee diaspora, and Sabrine Azraq (Social Justice Education, OISE, University of Toronto) with Ruba Najjar (University of Toronto alumna) talked about university campuses as sites of resistance and repression for students in solidarity with Palestine.

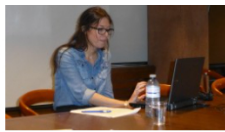


Session 4 on "Muslim Immigrant Integration" featured papers by Emily Laxer (Sociology, University of Michigan) and Marie-Pier Joly (Sociology, University of Toronto). Emily and Marie-Pier are part of a project led by Professor Jeffrey Reitz (see [feature on this website](#)) and presented findings from their research comparing Canada, Quebec and France in regards to the political incorporation (Laxer) and the emotional stress of integration (Joly) of Muslim immigrants. The discussant for this session was Professor Robert Brym (Sociology, University of Toronto).

## SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION

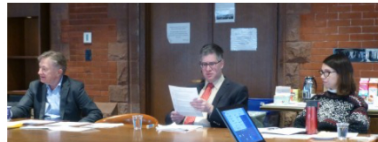
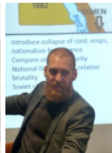
Many of our faculty, students, and staff are online engaging in a vibrant discussion on ethnic, immigration, and pluralism studies. Join the conversation!

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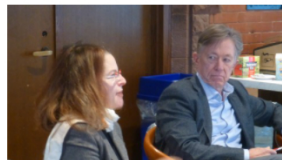
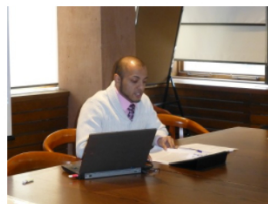


#### DAY TWO: JANUARY 29, 2016

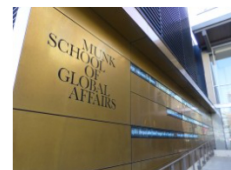
The second started with a two-hour session with four papers on the theme of "Integration". Siobhan Kirkland (CERES, University of Toronto) gave a presentation on migration reforms in Russia, while Jonathan Trefz (CERES, University of Toronto) spoke on Eurasian integration. Then Peter Haastруп (Policy Studies, Ryerson University) presented his research on the acculturation process undergone by North and West African International students in Canada, and Milos Brodie (Sociology, University of Toronto) gave a paper discussing assimilation and housing. Professor Matthew Light (Criminology, University of Toronto) was the discussant, while Emily Mooney (Social Work, University of Toronto) chaired the session.



Session 6 on "Gender" had two presentations, Dirk Rodricks (Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, OISE, University of Toronto) presenting his research on "Kotha" and a Toronto male bathhouse, and Fatima Altaf (Political Science, University of Toronto) gave a paper on the public discourse surrounding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Professor Judith Taylor (Sociology, Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto) commented on the two papers, and the session was chaired by Hannah Cohen (Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto).



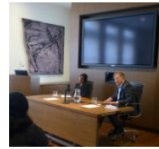
After lunch, the conference moved over to the Munk School of Global Affairs Observatory Site for the keynote lecture.



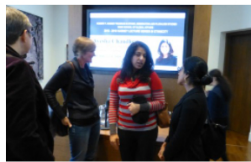
The keynote lecture was given by Ayesha Chaudhry (Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Gender Studies, University of British Columbia, Rita E. Hauser Research Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University), with the title "(Im)Moral Scholarship: The Politics of Responsible Scholarship". Professor Chaudhry talked about the challenges she faces as a Muslim feminist scholar. (For the abstract of Ayesha Chaudhry's talk, please see [Chaudhry event details](#))



A large audience packed the boardroom, and enjoyed a lively exchange with the keynote speaker.



The lecture was followed by a reception in the adjacent library, where the discussion continued in a more informal setting.



We would like to thank all who participated. See you next year, for our 10th Annual Conference.



We are planning something big for this landmark event, so please keep January 26 and 27, 2017 in your calendar!



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